



SHORE EXCURSIONS

7 nights | **STAR CLIPPER**
Northern Cyclades



Sat	Piraeus (port of Athens), Greece
Sun	At sea
Mon	Morning sailing through Samos Strait Kusadasi, Turkey (optional tour Ephesus)
Tue	Patmos, Greece
Wed	Amorgos, Greece
Thu	Mykonos, Greece
Fri	Spetses, Greece
Sat	Piraeus (port of Athens), Greece

What you need to know before booking your shore excursion:

- All our tours are offered with English speaking guides.
- The length of the tours and time spent on the sites is given as an indication as it may vary depending on weather, sea and traffic conditions and on the group's pace.
- The level of physical fitness required for our activities is given as a very general indication. Passengers should be fit and active to join tours which include hiking, kayaking, snorkeling, boating, or similar activities.

How you can book your shore excursions:

- You can book shore excursions onboard, using our "sign-up lists" available at the Library.
- Debark tours ending at the airport and transfers can also be pre-booked prior your cruise.
- In order to provide the best service and to avoid disappointments, please book your shore excursions as early as possible: places are limited and there is a booking deadline for each port.
- A minimum number of participants is required for tours; if the required number is not attained, the tour may be cancelled.
- Cancellation and changes are possible until the booking deadline. After the booking deadline, 100% cancellation fees will be charged.

Important notes:

- Departure times of the tour are mentioned on the daily program of each port.
- The Captain reserves the right to alter the itinerary in order to suit wind, weather and local conditions.
- All information concerning excursions is correct at the time of printing. However, Star Clippers reserves the right to make changes.
- Last updated tour descriptions are available on Star Clippers' website and onboard the ship in a file at the Library.

Date of last update: 14th of February 2024

KUSADASI - Ephesus & the Virgin Mary's house

Duration: 04:00 approx.

Transportation: air-conditioned minibus

Price: 85 €

Activity level: moderate

Min 12 participants

Ephesus was the "First and greatest metropolis of Asia". The city dates back to 3000BC and in its heyday was the Roman capital of Asia Minor with a population of a quarter of a million. The remains of this important Ionian city bear witness to its glorious past. The well-preserved ruins include a theatre, the Hadrian Gate, the Celsus Library, Curetes Street (one of the 3 main streets) the Fountain of Trajan and the Odeon (used for poetry readings and prize giving ceremonies).

Ephesus became one of the most important cities in early Christianity. Six years after the death of Christ it was visited by the Virgin Mary and Saint John, and the house where Mary is said to have spent her last days is situated at the top of "Bulbul" mountain, 9 km distance from the town. The building you will see on site is a church dating from the 7th century.

Please note: This tour involves extended walking (approx. 2 km in Ephesus) on cobblestone and uneven surfaces with inclines and steps to negotiate.

Guests are advised to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat, sunscreen and water. Appropriate dress is required for the visit of the Virgin Mary's house (no shorts or skirts above the knees, shoulders must be covered). Inside the house of the Virgin Mary no photos are allowed.

Driving time: between Kusadasi and Ephesus, approx. 30 minutes; between Ephesus and Virgin Mary's house, approx. 15 min; between Virgin Mary house and Kusadasi, approx. 45 minutes.

KUSADASI - Ephesus and the "terrace houses"

Duration: 03:45 approx.

Transportation: air-conditioned minibus

Price: 85 €

Activity level: moderate

Min 12 participants

Ephesus, which dates back to 3000BC, was one of the most important centres of the ancient world and is certainly the best preserved. The port city of Ephesus was the point of departure for the famous royal highway that led through Sardis into Lydia. Because of its strategic position, Ephesus developed into an important political and economic centre, and became the capital city of the Roman province of Asia. The remains of this important Ionian city are miraculously still standing today and bear witness to its glorious past. The well-preserved ruins include the Theatre, the Hadrian Gate, the Celsius Library, Curetes Street, the Fountain of Trajan and the Odeon.

Opposite the Temple of Hadrian on the slopes of Bulbul Mountain you can see the "terrace houses", the roof of one house forming the terrace of the house above it. These dwellings were also known as the "Houses of the rich" as they are finely decorated with mosaics and frescoes and had heating and hot and cold water. Built in the period of Augustus, they continued to be inhabited until the 7th century, albeit in a modified form. Two of the houses have been totally restored.

Please note: This tour is not suitable for guests with mobility concerns, it involves extended walking / standing (approx. 2 km) on cobblestone and uneven surfaces with inclines and approx. 300 steps to negotiate.

Guests are advised to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and a bottle of water. The drive between Kusadasi and Ephesus takes approximately 30 minutes (each way).



KUSADASI - Cooking class in Şirince village

Duration: 04:15 approx.

Transportation: air-conditioned minibus

Price: 85 €

Activity level: easy

Min 12 / Max 24 participants

We will disembark in Kusadi and take the motorcoach to Şirince village.

You will have about half an hour to explore the village on your own and admire the 200-year-old Greco-Turkish houses before walking over to the cooking class (5 minutes) which is held in a typical village house. Turkish food is ranked as one of the top three world cuisines. It is incredibly varied and flavorful thanks to its unique historical heritage, a fusion of eastern and western traditions, using a wide variety of natural ingredients. Every region has made its own individual contribution to the colourful tapestry of Turkish cuisine. In Şirince, you will get the opportunity to cook deliciously flavorful, simple recipes using top quality ingredients and taste the fruit of your labour in a truly authentic setting. It is not so much an excursion but rather an unforgettable experience. After tasting the food you have prepared, you will be offered a choice of Turkish tea or coffee.

Please note: driving time between Kusadasi and Şirince takes approx. 30 minutes (each way).

Guests are advised to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and water.

PATMOS - Saint John's monastery and the cave of the Revelation

Duration: 03:00 approx.

Transportation: air-conditioned motorcoach

Price: 65 €

Activity level: moderate

Min 15 / Max 35 participants

The Sacred Island of Patmos lies at the northwestern extremity of the Dodecanese between the islands of Ikaria and Leros. An island of rare beauty captivating the visitor at first glance, with its picturesque harbor dominated by the imposing Monastery of St. John standing on the hill above, situated amongst gleaming white houses forming a startling contrast to its dark mass.

Leaving the harbor of Skala, you take a drive to the impressive village of Chora. The Monastery of Saint John was built in 1088 by the Blessed Christodoulos, Servant of Christ.

The monastery has thick, high walls crowned all around with battlements and a total of eight chapels. The courtyard is laid with pebbles and decorated with arches through which one can see the intricately designed frescoes adorning the chapel entrance. The museum houses a magnificent collection of jeweled chalices, crowns, crosses, old writings dating back as far as 1073, icons and religious paintings.

The tour then continues with a visit to the Cave of the Apocalypse (also known as Cave or the Revelation), taking the form of a 17th century monastery built around the cave where Saint John lived for two years (95-97AD) and dictated his Gospel and The Book of Revelations.

After this memorable tour, you will embark the coach for the short ride back to the port.

Please note: This tour involves extended walking on uneven surfaces and inclines, with approx. 100 steps to negotiate.

Helpful hints: wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and a water. A proper attire is required when visiting religious sites (shoulders and knees must be covered).

Taking photos inside the chapel and the cave is not allowed.



PATMOS - Patmos' art and history tour

Duration: 03:15 approx.

Transportation: air-conditioned motorcoach

Price: 69 €

Activity level: moderate

Min 15 / Max 30 participants

Leaving the harbor of Skala, you take a drive to the impressive village of Chora, which stands high on the hilltop and is dominated by the imposing Monastery of Saint John. During our guided tour through the winding cobbled streets of Chora, enjoy breathtaking panoramic views, learn about the islands historical background and discover the stunning architecture of houses dating from the 15th to the 18th century.

At the House of Simandiris, you will have the unique experience of seeing the interior of a traditional Patmian house along with antique furniture, embroidery and paintings collected over eight generations of the Simandiris family members.

Just around the corner is the tiny Convent of Zoodochos Pigi built in 1607, where you will discover an array of recently restored 17th century frescoes, the timeless art of the icon and a beautifully carved icon wall.

Continue through a labyrinth of atmospheric lanes winding their way past the foot of the Monastery of St. John to the Mansion of Nikolaidis, a wonderful example of the large luxurious houses built by wealthy ship owners and merchants from the 15th century as protection against the numerous pirate attacks.

The Nikolaidis Mansion shows not only the islander's way of life but also a varied collection of local archeological finds. On the ground floor you can find storerooms for foodstuffs, a cooking area with its original oven, water tanks for the collection of rainwater and its own private chapel. On the second floor, you will find verandas, the formal reception room and the sleeping area, along with a magnificent "ambataros" (a separating wooden partition), decorated with traditional folk painting.

Before returning to the port of Skala you will conclude your tour with refreshments in a beautiful environment and with a spectacular view. A bit of shopping in Chora is also an option!

Please note: This tour involves extended walking on uneven surfaces and inclines and many steps.

Helpful hints: wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and a water. A proper attire is required when visiting religious sites (shoulders and knees must be covered).

PATMOS – Patmos' traditions through dances and flavors

Duration: 04:00 approx.

Transportation: air-conditioned motorcoach

Price: 112 €

Activity level: easy

Min 8 / Max 20 participants

Get immersed in the Greek culture by dining on popular Greek dishes that have been prepared from local recipes while watching a folkloric performance with live music and dancers. The venue for this delightful experience will be Aloni restaurant, a popular restaurant known for its traditional menu and rousing entertainment.

Although the exact dishes will be decided once you arrive, you can be sure that they will be representative of the island's cuisine. Many of the offerings will be prepared from original recipes, so even the most traditional dishes will be distinctly unique. Cheese pies, vine leaves stuffed with rice, and roast meats with pasta cooked in a clay pot are often included on the menu. The festive folkloric show elevates the experience to another dimension. The dancers in traditional customs may perform the sirtaki – better known as Zorba's dance and the musicians are sure to play traditional instruments such as the bouzouki.

Please note: This tour includes a little walking, mainly at the guest's discretion.

Helpful hints: wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and a water.



AMORGOS - Hozoviotissa Monastery & Chora

Duration: 03:00 approx.

Transportation: motorcoach

Price: 59 €

Activity level: moderate/strenuous

Min 15 / Max 60 participants

Meet our tour guide at the pier and board the motorcoach to reach the symbol of the island, the Byzantine monastery of Hozoviotissa. It is the second oldest monastery in Greece, it was built 1017 and commissioned by the Byzantine Emperor Alexius Comnenus. and houses precious icons and rare manuscripts.

Admire a memorable panoramic view over the sea before climbing up the 269 steps that lead to the monastery.

Continue your journey to the small emblematic village of Chora, dominated by its castle.

Chora is the idyllic picture-perfect Greek village of your imagination, with whitewashed houses, Byzantine or pre-Christian churches, windmills, winding stone paths. Walk up to a plateau offering panoramic views where you will be served "rakomelo" (raki with honey and spices) and "loukoumades" (local sweets), then walk down to the main square and enjoy some free time to stroll through this maze of cobbled streets. After the free time in Chora, re-board the coach and return to port.

Please note: This tour involves extensive walking on cobblestone and uneven surfaces with inclines and many steps (15-minute including 269 steps to reach the monastery).

Helpful hints: wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and water. A proper attire is required when visiting the monastery (no bare shoulders or shorts are allowed; men should wear long trousers and women should not wear trousers). Photos are not allowed inside the church.

The drive between the port and the Monastery takes approximately 20 minutes.

In Chora, the pick-up point after the visit will be different than the drop-off point. Please follow attentively the instructions given by the tour guide.

MYKONOS - The island of Delos

Duration: 03:45 approx.

Transportation: boat (ferry), then walking tour

Price: 75 €

Activity level: moderate

Min 10 participants

The Cyclades were so called because they formed a Kiklo, or rough circle, around the sacred island of Delos.

Notwithstanding its small size Delos played an important role in antiquity for both commercial and religious reasons and is nowadays considered to be one of the most important mythological, historical and archaeological sites in Greece.

The sanctuary dedicated to Apollo on this, the island of his birth, was a magnet for pilgrims and brought wealth to Delos, making it one of the most important religious sites in the Greek world. These days Delos is a desolate windswept island; a 2001 census put the number of inhabitants at 14. Only tourists now flock to the shrines and temples, but a sense of awe and religious fervor still pervades the ruins.

The modern quay leads directly to the archaeological site. You will walk into the heart of the sanctuary where you will see the Temple of Apollo, the sacred lake (now dried up) which witnessed the birth of Apollo and the unique marble lions of Delos. You will also visit impressive Hellenistic mansions with superb mosaics decorating the floors and walls.

At the end of the guided visit, you will have free time will be given to explore the site until the departure time of the boat to Mykonos.

Please note: This tour involves extensive walking (approx. 2 hours) with steps and uneven ground to negotiate. There is some uphill walk which passengers can avoid in agreement with their guide. There is very limited shade at the site.

The museum in Delos is currently closed for renovation works.

Helpful hints: wear comfortable walking shoes and weather-appropriate clothes and to bring a hat, sunscreen and water.

The departure time and the duration of the tour will be adjusted according to the departure time of the local boat schedule between Mykonos to Delos.



SPETSES - Time at leisure (no tours in program)

Spetses is an island with a long naval tradition, famous for its significant contribution to the 1821 War of Independence. It was here that the revolutionary flag was raised on 3rd April 1821. A visit to Spetses begins as soon as you step off the tender at Dapia, which means "fortified place"; you can still see canons protruding from the high walls. Nowadays it is the island's hub lined with cafés and shops, bustling with activity from morning to night.

ATHENS - Panoramic Athens and Plaka exploration (ending at the airport)

Duration: 4:30 approx. Transportation: air-conditioned motorcoach

Price: 69 € Activity level: easy

Min 10 / Max 30 participants

This tour ends at Athens International Airport (ATH) and is suitable for guests whose flight leaves after 15:00.

From the port of Piraeus you pass the charming yacht harbor of Zea, where the foundations of the dock dating from the 5th century BC are clearly visible. Next is the attractive Mikrolimanon waterfront lined with inviting al fresco fish restaurants. It is but a short drive into cosmopolitan Athens, a mixture of modern buildings and great monuments. You will pass by the Temple of Zeus, the Panathenaic Stadium, the Parliament at Syntagma (Constitution) Square, the National Academy, the University, Library and Hadrian's Arch, before you reach Plaka, the oldest and most picturesque neighborhood of Athens.

You will have approximately two hours of free time to explore Plaka and walk among the tavernas and boutiques, discover architectural gems such as the ancient Agora, the Tower of the Winds and the monument to Lysicrates and the neoclassical houses. At the end of the free time, you will be transferred to the airport.

Please note: Walking distance during the free time in the city center is at guests' discretion.

Helpful hints: wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and bring a hat and water.

Traffic in Athens may affect the duration of the driving between the places. The order of the visits may vary and the duration of the free time may change depending on the traffic of the day.

The tour guide will leave the group when the coach leaves Athens in direction of the airport.

Star Clippers offers also the following transfer services (optional, upon reservation):**✓ Shared transfer to Athens Airport (ATH)**

Guests who have purchased a shared transfer cannot choose their pickup time. There will be one fixed departure from the port at about 09:00am, the arrival at the airport will be around 10:30 am.

This transfer is suitable for guests whose flight leaves after 12:30 pm.

✓ Private transfers to Athens Airport (ATH) / to hotels in Athens.

Latest pick-up time from the pier will be at 10:00 am.

Private transfers are operated by Sedan Cars (1-2 passengers) or Minivans (3-4 passengers).

Debarb tours ending at the airport and transfers can be pre-booked prior your cruise.

For information and reservations, please contact our reservation department or your travel agent.

