YOUR PRE-BOOKED EXCURSIONS MAGAZINE

#### Foodie Heaven Vacation is all

Vacation is all about the food



Heading off the beaten track

### Seeking Adventure

You can't keep an adventurer down

Wonders of Archaeology Visit hidden

cities and awe



CELESTYAL CRUISES

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### Contents

Foodie Heaven......4 Culture Vulture......18 Adventure Time......26 Art and Archaeology...34 ake it from us, discovering Greece and the Eastern Mediterranean isn't an everyday experience - even for people who really do it every day. Cruising the Aegean is what we do best, but it's never something we take for granted. At each stop, There's a tale to tell. Whether it's the whispering of the waves, a walk through a dusty ancient ruin, or the first mouthful of a family recipe passed down for generations, rest assured that you'll be sailing away with your very own Celestyal story.

#### EXPLORERS NEVER WANT TO SIMPLY SCRATCH THE SURFACE

They want to dig deeper into the real, the authentic. And that's precisely what our excursions offer. Exploration without pretence. Genuine experiences, where you'll be led to the foods that locals want to eat, the history you haven't heard before, and the views that capture the real essence of the Aegean.



Whatever

you're looking for from your experience, the result is sure to be memorable. We ensure the story is one to remember, with excursions crafted to suit all the tastes and interests of your group. Immerse yourself in the authentic - strolling or swimming, savouring or sunning, whatever you're searching for, let us help you find it for real.

# FOODIE HEAVEN

acation is all about the food. There's simply no better way to indulge your sense of adventure! The opportunity for culinary discovery is endless on our Aegean excursions. You might be in search of the perfect Greek salad or the moussaka you've been dreaming of since you touched down. Have an urge to sample the secrets of a Mediterranean diet? Perhaps an exclusive behind-the-scenes look at local specialities is more your thing. And with experts awaiting your arrival to offer insight into just why the traditional delicacies are quite so moreish, you're likely to

Best

food in

Heraklion

be a little wiser and a lot more satisfied by the end of your trip. Drink it in!

Succumbing to the temptation to take it easy is far from frowned upon here. In fact, it's actively encouraged. Whether that's a Gerovasilleiou in Thessaloniki, delicious home cooking in Mykonos, or the sense explosion that is Food on Foot in Heraklion, you'll be encouraged to savour the best bites on to be found. With each island escape comes new opportunities to slowly wander the beautiful towns and villages on a culinary tour worth its weight in olives. And indeed, if olives are your kryptonite, you're in the right place. When harvest season rolls around, enjoy a tour of one of the many groves and learn the ancient history of 'liquid gold', aka olive oil. Of course, a true Celestyal dive into the culinary scene would not be complete without wine. Take your taste buds on a tour of the sun, sea and soil and extend your pallet to the shores of Thessaloniki, where rich treasures in tall glasses await.



#### THESSALONIKI



#### THESSALONIKI FOOD ON FOOT

mmerse yourself in the sights, sounds, tastes, aromas and culture of historic Thessaloniki in an all round, sensory experience.

This is what travel and discovery are all about.

Not just a superficial passing through, but something that offers a much deeper understanding of your destination, creating vivid memories that will stay with you.

> You will see, feel, hear, taste and smell Thessaloniki.

This a remarkable city that is easy to fall in love with, the home of fine food, rich history and stunning coastlines.

It has Greek, Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman influences.

Soak up the atmosphere around the historic centre. see how the past and present

fuse together, enjoy the places where locals go, try some of the local delicacies and learn how they fit into Thessaloniki's culture.

The starting point is a walk along the seafront Promenade to Aristotelous Square, the largest and most central square of the city.

There is the famous landmark of Thessaloniki, the White Tower, built by the Ottomans in the 15th century to defend the eastern end of the city's sea walls.

We'll walk to Navarinou Square, to see the ruins of a palace, part of Caesar Galerius' Royal Complex of buildings, the Arch of Galerius and Rotunda.

You will see, feel, hear, taste and smell Thessaloniki

The nearby St. Sophia Church is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

As the history unfolds before our eyes so we

sample local specialities in various establishments as we go.

We will walk through to the old olive oil market, today known as Ladadika. The area is a gem, full of life day and night with everything from luxurious restaurants to typical Greek taverns.

This is the perfect taste of intriguing Thessaloniki.

## Need to know!

Price: ADULT €129

Duration: Half day Limited availability for 9-18 guests Tour code: THS-10

Available itineraries: Idyllic Aegean, Eclectic Aegean & Steps of Paul



#### THESSALONIKI



#### **RICH HISTORY OF A FAMOUS GREEK WINERY**

his is what we might call a full bodied tour to the slopes of Epanomi Hills, a short distance from the city of Thessaloniki.

More than any other type of alcohol, wine has the uncanny ability to stimulate your senses and bring the greatest pleasure to your taste buds as well as sight and smell.

A good wine can have magical qualities which is why people talk about it in the way they do.

So for wine lovers, our trip to Ktima Gerovassiliou will be an unforgettable and fully sensual experience.

This is one of the most reputed wine companies in Greece having been in business for more than 40 years.

We are led by a

knowledgeable wine-guide who will share their passion and show us the meticulously tended 71-hectare vineyard, wine production, bottling, ageing areas and the wine museum. You can choose the labels you wish to taste or opt for one of the specially designed wine experiences.

Among the international names, the grapes used include Chardonnay, Viognier, Sauvignon Blanc, Syrah and Merlot.

The local white wine includes Malagaousia and Assyrtiko and the reds Limnio, Mavroudi and Mavrotragano.

All have a rich history.

Current and rare past vintages, tasty combinations and the magnificent view of the imposing vineyard are at the heart of your visit to Ktima Gerovassiliou.

> Your trip to Ktima Gerovassiliou will be an unforgettable and fully sensual experience

## Need to know!

Price: ADULT €139 Duration: Half day Limited availability for 10-15 guests Tour code: THS-09

**Available itineraries:** Idyllic Aegean, Eclectic Aegean & Steps of Paul



#### HERAKLION



#### **HERAKLION FOOD ON FOOT**

rich flavour of Crete this tour certainly is. It will stimulate your senses and leave you with enduring memories of the most wonderful tastes and smells.

Close your eyes long after you have returned home and those aromas will come drifting back to remind you of a unique Cretan experience.

The island's cuisine is famous - some say miraculous.

Our expert guides are true food lovers and wine connoisseurs, so you will be in the best possible hands.

With them you will discover some of Heraklion's wonderful hidden gems to sample the very best of Mediterranean cuisine. At nine different places you will enjoy a flavour of what's on offer.

Original Cretan herbal tea with thyme-infused honey, a variety of cheeses, olives, Greek custard pie with phyllo, delicious meze dishes paired with local wine and Cretan raki, as well as street food, all the while admiring the stunning scenery.

Tasting the very best of Crete is interwoven with a tour of the historic monuments of Heraklion immersing you in the capital's fascinating history.

The ancient city of Knossos 'gave birth' to the very first civilisation of Europe, the Minoans. The Minotaur, half man, half bull lived in the Labyrinth and was slain by Theseus. But that's another story, one of many.

Cretan food is renowned across the globe as the original Mediterranean Diet, perhaps the world's healthiest, abundant in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, legumes and olive oil. It features fish and poultry - lean sources of protein - over red meat. It has wellbeing at its heart and reflects Crete's rich diversity in landscape and plant life producing an amazing array of aromas and flavour.

It has inspired menus across Europe and beyond.

Historically Cretans have only eaten what their land produced.

Now it's your turn. There's so much food for thought.

This is truly a unique, unforgettable and sensory experience.

Who knows, it might even change your life.

## Need to know!

Price: ADULT €129 Duration: Half day Limited availability for 9-15 Guests Tour code: HER-09

**Available itineraries:** 4 Night Iconic Aegean & Idyllic Aegean







#### A DELICIOUS TASTE OF 'LIQUID GOLD'

f you have tasted liquid gold before, it has probably never been as authentic this.

This Pelion peninsula is a little known Greek jewel with the port city of Volos more or less half way between Athens and Thessaloniki on the east coast. From snowy mountains to beautiful beaches Pelion has everything with the added advantage of being relatively untouched by mass tourism.

So this will be real journey of personal discovery for you. You can feel you are really new ground and visiting somewhere than many people would not be able to place on a map, or indeed would not have heard of. Discover the world of beautiful Pelion and what we call liquid gold and find out first hand what makes the very best Greek olive oil so special. For centuries, olives and olive oil have been an essential in every Pelion home and a source of pride and joy for those who produce it. They love to share it. Authentic Pelion olive oil comes from specific olive varieties and has a pungent taste and a smell of freshcut grass. Our tour begins with a drive along the coastal side of South Pelion. At the village of Koropi, you feel at one with the natural environment as we stroll through the olive trees and learn all about various olive, the production process and a few little secrets from the local producer. But don't tell anyone. You are very welcome to join in with the harvesting of the oils.

After this wonderful experience getting to the heart of such an important part of Greek life and culture, we'll head to an olive mill to watch the extra virgin oil being produced and taste it fresh and warm with some snacks. What could possibly be more Greek?



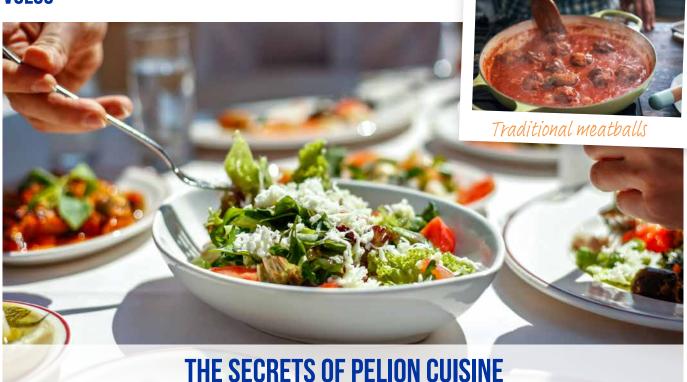


## Need to know!

Price: ADULT €99 Duration: Half day Limited availability for 10-20 Guests Tour code: VOL-07 Available itineraries: Eclectic Aegean



#### VOLOS



he mountainous Pelion peninsula is breathtaking but still relatively untouched by mass tourism. Not forgotten exactly, just not crowded.

Rocky, exposed landscapes make way for lush pine woods, fruit orchards and olive groves. The beaches are said to be the finest in all Greece.

Homer described this as the land of quivering foliage. And with good reason. It is a rich natural larder and local cuisine also reflects the peninsula's many foreign influences. But whatever the dish, local, fresh and seasonal ingredients are guaranteed.

It's here we learn secrets of Pelion cuisine.

Our hosts will show us all the little tricks that Greek cooking has to offer with recipes often handed down through the generations.

In a beautiful region like this, it's an even more memorable and intriguing experience. So what's on the menu? First a welcome with a cup of hot mountain tea or homemade sour cherry juice. Then a lesson on

how to

 Our hosts will show us all the little tricks that Greek cooking
has to offer

cook traditional meatballs in tomato sauce. Kneading the meatballs, prepare fresh tomato sauce and serving it with local pasta.

This is followed by batzina, an original zucchini pie from Thessaly, traditional refreshing aromatic yogurt dip, tzatziki with herbs from the garden and a fresh seasonal salad. Guests depart having shared some secrets and armed with small gifts and a diploma in Pelion cuisine!

Vegetarian options can be included.

## Need to know!

Price: ADULT €159 Duration: Half day Limited availability for 10-17 Guests Tour code: VOL-06 Available itineraries: Eclectic Aegean



#### VOLOS



#### **PELION SPOON SWEETS**

f you have been to Greece before, you will probably heard of Sweet Spoons or Glyko tou Koutaliou.

You may even have tried them.

This traditional conserved fruit Greek treat is often served to guests and

it's particularly well known in Pelion, between Athens and Thessaloniki.

#### From coffee and cookies, to cakes, homemade liqueurs, and more...

Here, every home has a jar on the shelf or in the cupboard.

We visit the beautiful community of Vizitsa included in Unesco's global list of preserved villages with its stone built paths and mansions.

Here we meet the Women Cooperation Esperides in their kitchen and learn all about the tradition as they prepare the sweets for us and other travellers.

> And once the lesson is underway we can all get involved.

The local Sweet Spoons are mostly known for the

ingredient of baby apples.

The ladies started their shop and kitchen in 2011 with their own savings and are totally dedicated to their craft. You will find it a delightful experience to meet them and share their love for what they do.

Later there is free time to stroll in the village's square and paths and then a stop in the main square of Milies to visit the famous church of Pameggiston Taxiarchon.



## Need to know!

Price: ADULT €99 Duration: Half day Limited availability for 10-17 Guests Tour code: VOL-08 Available itineraries: Eclectic Aegean





#### **TURKISH BAKLAVA MAKING**

e don't make dessert, we make baklava,' says Nadir Gullu, the master baklavaci of Istanbul.

For an authentic experience of something as Turkish as Turkish Delight or the Ottoman Empire, why not come and spend a few hours in the company of this icon of Istanbul and learn all about mouthwatering baklava, the Sultan of Meals.

Turkish Baklava, also known as Fistikli Baklava or Pistachio Baklava is a deliciously rich, buttery, sweet dessert made from phyllo dough,







My first Turkish Baklava

finely ground pistachios, butter, and a syrup made from sugar, water and lemon juice.

The family business was set up in 1820 and Nadir's father moved to Istanbul in 1949.

You'll be able to tour the five storey factory across the water from Topkapi Palace and watch a demonstration of the baklavamaking process by the master himself, as well as trying your hand at production. There will be all sorts of pastries and assorted desserts to sample for lunch consisting of pistachio and walnut baklava and kadayif, served with tea and lemonade. Each guest receives a slice of baklava in a box with the flag of their own country on top.

Before visiting the shop, pause to have a group photograph with the great baklavaci before saying farewell.

Nadir Gullu has prepared his unique baklava for kings and world leaders and will do so for you.

An extraordinarily delicious taste of Istanbul, rooted deep in Ottoman tradition.



## Need to know!

Price: ADULT €139 Duration: Half day Limited availability for 10-15 Guests Tour code: IST-23

Available itineraries: Eclectic Aegean & Steps of Paul



#### LIMASSOL



#### LIMASSOL OMODOS - OENOU YI WINERY

he Troodos is the largest mountain range in Cyprus, high above the popular beaches and busy resorts.

And here on these tranquil and sun-kissed slopes sits the village of Omodos, a popular destination for those who enjoy wine, traditional arts and crafts, walking through streets little changed by time and wonderful views.

This full bodied tour is an enriching experience for anyone, even more so if you love wine. The setting is incredible and you will return home with memories to treasure.

Omodos has a long wine making history. It is inextricably linked to the island's long history and tradition of the product. The two are synonymous. The famous True Cross Timios Stavros Monastery, with its numerous myths and legends is a major attraction at Omodos too. After spending time in the village we visit the Ktima Vassiliades Oenou Yi (or Land of Wine) to taste a full range of superb local wines, including Zivania and Commandaria.

# Take an eclectic journey into the land of Omodos and history

The winery spectacularly lies between the peaks of the Troodos and facing the magnificent Mount Olympus. The beautiful vineyards are laid out in amphitheatre style in the most stunning of locations.

The wine is produced with years of love, devotion and dedication something you can feel when you are there and taste in the produce.

The winery was founded in 2017, by lawyer and winemaker Christodoulos G. Vassiliades.

It is a new venture in viticulture and wine production but brings with it centuries of wine tradition.

For wine lovers this is a fascinating and exceptional few hours. For everyone it is an opportunity to replenish to soul in the peace of the Troodos.

## Need to know!

Price: ADULT €79 Duration: Half day Limited availability for 15-25 Guests Tour code: LIM-08 Available itineraries: Three Continents



#### **MILOS FOOD ON FOOT**

his is an authentic taste of the island of lovers featuring wonderful flavours to bring your taste buds alive in an unforgettable gastronomic experience.

Milos is the southernmost island in the Cyclades and we will be sampling the best of local cuisine on the

move, in a tour designed to stimulate and excite the senses.

Trek to the heart and soul of Milos by car and sample its gastronomy, a delightful and delicious combination of very traditional fare and the up to the moment, with modern restaurants offering the finest dishes but staying true to local ways of doing things. The two things sit side

by side very comfortably.

Just some of the delicacies on our menu are the local vegetarian pizza (Ladenia) in Adamas, watermelon pie (Karpouzopita) in Plaka and in

> Pollonia. dessert (Koufeto) made from honey, pumpkin and almonds at one of the renowned family run pastry shops. Here we

will also visit a local cave winery to sample the local specialities and then a family owned establishment producing cheese and other produce.

This is the chance to experience the most mouthwatering delicacies of Milos and drop by some of its renowned restaurants, all the while soaking up the unique atmosphere

of the island as we go. Its beauty is astounding, with turquoise bays, stunning beaches, crystal clear waters, romantic atmosphere and the most enchanting towns and villages. Not bad for an island flung out of the sea by a volcanic eruption a few million years ago. And all this on top of the wonderful food.



Karpouzopita watermelon pie

## Need to know!

Price: ADULT €129 Duration: Half day Limited availability for 15-20 Guests Tour code: MIL-12

Available itineraries: Idyllic Aegean



Adamas harbor town of Milos

The memories are

just waiting to be

made on Milos

#### **MYKONOS**



#### **HOME COOKING AND HOSPITALITY IN MYKONOS**

yconian hospitality is legendary and this tour for a small and select group offers a wonderful taste and flavour of what that means.

We all know food and drink is an important part of any holiday, as you immerse yourself in your destination's culture and lifestyle.

It's an essential ingredient in the whole experience.

The locals on the Island of Winds are proud of and passionate about their way of life.

They love to share it with visitors and you will be made to feel like one of the family.

We are hosted in a traditional homestead or Spiti, for a fun Greek cooking class and some little gastronomic secrets.

A very warm welcome awaits along with loukoumi, Greece's own version of Turkish delight and a cheery glass of Teta's liqueur. There is a tour of the kitchen and garden and an informative session on how to cultivate your own vegetables all year-round.

In a corner of the garden will be a small taster of local specialities along with locally-made wine and raki.

There will be a masterclass on how to make delicious Greek spinach pie, stuffed tomatoes and peppers and the famous Greek dip, tzatziki - with your help and using fresh seasonal ingredients.

#### A fun Greek cooking class and some little gastronomic secrets

Afterwards enjoy a tasty lunch and savour the fruits of your labour, accompanied by locally produced wine.



Tasty loukoumi

Before saying goodbye, enjoy a photo opportunity at the Spiti, a lovely way to mark a memorable few hours.

You may also have some new recipe ideas to try out when you get home.

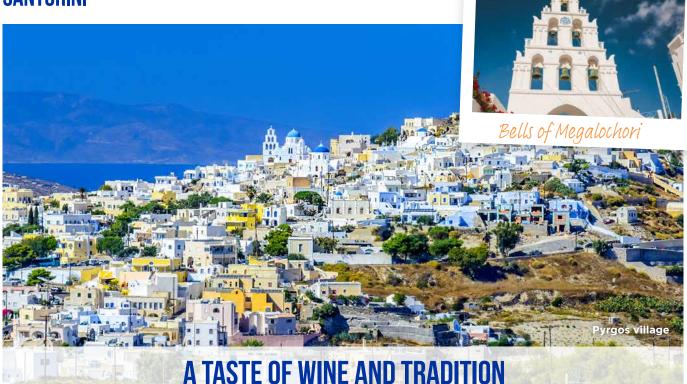
### Need to know!

Price: ADULT €169 Duration: Half day Limited availability for 25-40 Guests Tour code: MYK-14

**Available itineraries:** 3 & 4 Night Iconic Aegean & Idyllic Aegean



#### **SANTORINI**



ou may already know this, but there is nowhere quite like beautiful and breathless Santorini, one of the most photographed destinations in the world.

Imagine yourself in a stunning, whitewashed walled mountain village, in the warm, gentle, sunny breeze, gazing out over the sparking blue Aegean.

You may not know which way to point your camera or smart phone because the vista is overwhelming whichever way you look.



Venetsanos wine tasting

But perhaps don't worry about taking pictures, at least not yet.

Just gaze in awe.... Live in the moment.

If ever there is a time for mindfulness, surely this is it

This could be you at Pyrgos, a charming village that once served as the capital of Santorini.

On a walking tour explore the traditional Cyladic architecture that gives Santorini its unique look and feel.

Stroll through the remains of a Venetian fortress and see the historical 18th century monastery of Profitis Ilias (Prophet Elias) one of the oldest on the island. It is closed to the public but remains home to one solitary monk and this vantage point offers the most spectacular views over the island. At Venetsanos Winery, the oldest winery on the island, savour a variety of extraordinary, authentic local vintages.

Then at the Avanti Winery, enjoy a range of varietals, learning of the island's unique viticulture, which produces some of the crispest whites and seductively sweet wines in the Mediterranean.

In the capital Fira there is free time to shop and explore on your own before returning to ship with some wonderful images - in your mind and maybe in the camera.

## Need to know!

Price: ADULT €129 Duration: Half day Limited availability for 10-15 Guests Tour code: SAN-15

**Available itineraries:** 3 & 4 Night Iconic Aegean, Idyllic Aegean & Eclectic Aegean





#### ATHENS



#### **ATHENS FOOD ON FOOT**

oin us on a very special journey. Come and share our love for Athens and its cuisine on a tour that brings the senses well and truly alive in more ways than one.

Sharing our passion for Greece and all things Greek is what we do. It's our mission to inspire you and where better to start than Classical Athens, the cradle of civilisation and the birthplace of democracy.

Here we experience together in a panoramic tour, some of the world's most magnificent and historic sites.

The Acropolis and the majestic and magnificent Parthenon. The Changing of the Guard outside Parliament, Syntagma Square.

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, National Academy, Academy University, Old Parliament and the Russian Orthodox Church.

There is yet more to marvel at and be inspired by. Panathinaiko Stadium, site of the first modern Olympic Games, the new classical Zappion and the Roman temple of Zeus and Arch of Hadrian.

Then it's time to share the delicious and evocative tastes and smells of traditional Greek cuisine.

We drop into a traditional kafenio - or coffee shop for a Greek coffee and some great hospitality.

Then a stroll through the bustling central market and the spice market.

Once you have taken in the air on Evripidou Street, the distinctive scent will be hard to forget. Breathe in. Scents help make the most wonderful memories too, a proven fact.

The intriguing aromas comes from the mix of foods and spices wafting out from the open-fronted stores.

After this aromatic experience we will most certainly be ready to try the traditional souvlaki in Monastiraki a market neighbourhood in the old town and one of the main shopping districts in Athens.

The area is home to clothing boutiques, souvenir shops, and specialty stores, and is a major tourist attraction bargain shopping.

Then its time to visit a traditional sweet shop for a mouthwatering taste of delicious loukoumades, yeast-risen dough puffs, deep fried to golden brown, drizzled with honey and sprinkled with cinnamon.

Our final stop on this unique tour of history, culture and gastronomy is a visit to one of Athens oldest distilleries in famous Plaka, in the shadow of the Acropolis, to sample the local tsipouro or ouzo.

A perfect end to a day filled with wonderful sights, sounds, smells and flavours.

You won't forget that heady combination.



Price: ADULT €129 Duration: Half day

Limited availability for 9-15 Guests **Tour code:** PIR-11

**Available itineraries:** Idyllic Aegean, Eclectic Aegean, Steps of Paul & 3 Continents





## CULTURE VULTURE

sure to find on one of our tailored excursions.

A vacation is often about losing yourself in new, unearthed experiences. A fond local welcome can come in many forms, but in all of them there's no doubt you'll be on a voyage of discovery - about the culture and perhaps about yourself. When will you ever have the chance to try your hand at mosaic-making, creating your own unique piece of art under the guiding hand of a local

artist in Mykonos? Or take a turn at pottery in Rhodes, famous for its love of ceramics? Or to dine on the shores of the Bosporus as your mind buzzes from witnessing the incredible Whirling Dervishes? Capture the opportunity with both hands, and mould it into your own artistic memory for keeping. 7

Immersing yourself in local culture – truly soaking, bathing in it – doesn't always require too much

eading off the beaten track is underrated. Stepping away from the well-travelled road, and into the heart of authentic culture offers a true taste of adventure; one you're

**Mosaic making** 

work. Sometimes, all you have to do is sit and listen.

Music to your ears? Santorini's wonderful instrumentalists extend a familiar hand to eager visitors, on a journey through time with traditional Greek

instruments. It doesn't get more authentic than that.

There's much to learn, and much to be explored, as our cultural excursions explore the soul and spirit of what it really means to live in our amazing blue world. Whirling Dervishes

Perfecting pottery

A fond welcome can come in many forms, but in all of them there's no doubt you'll be on a voyage of discovery

#### **MYKONOS**



#### THE BEAUTIFUL ART OF MOSAIC MAKING

his is unique opportunity to learn the fascinating secrets of a skill famed across the area.

The art of the mosaic is making images and designs using small pieces of coloured, glass, marble, stones or tiles.

It's astonishingly beautiful and Greek mosaics are said to be the earliest art form still in existence today. They are an integral part of Greek civilisation and culture.

Our talented artist who has been been giving lessons for many years and loves to share her knowledge, will teach you the ancient and contemporary art of mosaic-making in Mykonos.

She also helps you create your own unique work of art which you can take home as a lovely and very personal memento of your visit to the island.

> Mykonos is located across the water from Delos, the iconic island of antiquity, known for its ancient history and wealth of knowledge. It is one of the most important archaeological locations in Greece, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the mythical birthplace of Apollo.



After your wonderful, peaceful, creative mosaic experience, there is time to wander the atmospheric streets of Mykonos Town or sit and enjoy a leisurely, contemplative coffee before returning to the ship.

## Need to know!

Price: ADULT €119 Duration: Half day Limited availability for 5-25 Guests Tour code: MYK-13

**Available itineraries:** 3 & 4 Night Iconic Aegean & Idyllic Aegean





#### **GENTS ANATOLIAN WELL-BEING (BERBER AND HAMMAM)**

in a city that's more than just a city,

Turkish baths follow a three-step

a full body wash and a massage.

This opens up all your pores,

process featuring a sauna and steam,

increases your blood circulation and

removes all dead cells. It's good for

stress, tension and blood pressure.

After the Turkish Bath experience

The result is absolutely invigorating.

it's a global story too.

hat could be more Turkish than a reinvigorating Turkish Bath? Or to more precise, a Turkish Bath, haircut, shave and a shoe shine.

So if you would like to make yourself at home and immerse yourself completely in the local culture, join us at Cemberlitas Hamami, an historic Turkish Bath.

This is an unforgettable experience, a huge part of Turkish culture.

The Hamam has been faithfully

Istanbul's imperial harem.

restored and was originally built in 1584 for Nurbanu Sultan, the head of

As you walk through the impressive

arches you can certainly feel the weight of historical significance

It's located between Constantine 1st's Vezirhan monument and the Köprülü Mahmud Pasa mosque, school and tombs.

This is a unique experience, a huge part of Turkish culture

shave Turkish style. The tradition of the Turkish shave dates far back.

there's a haircut and

The Turkish Barber is not only a place

to have a shave or haircut but almost a social event Join us for this ritual of Turkish culture. You won't forget it.





## Need to know!

Price: ADULT €109 GENTLEMEN ONLY Duration: Half day Limited availability for 2-10 Guests Tour code: IST-22 Available itineraries: Eclectic Aegean & Steps of Paul



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#### **WHIRLING DERVISHES & DINNER**

esmerising, bizarre and beautiful all at the same time. Whirling Dervishes are an integral part of Turkish culture.

Join us at the Hodjapasha Culture Centre for

Amazing, traditional,

entertainment in

a dramatic and

mystical setting

amazing, traditional, entertainment in a dramatic and mystical setting with complimentary

drinks before the hour long show.

You will be dazzled and transfixed by the colour and vibrancy of this sacred ritual. It may even move you to tears with its beauty.

A very different and unique experience.

Mevleviye of the Sufi branch of Islam are known for their famous practice of whirling dances and dervishes, spinning faster and faster.

The 800-year old Sema Ceremony

that has been preserved on UNESCO's list of Intangible Heritage of Humanity.

A question you might ask is, don't

they get dizzy? The answer is they do not.

And with their eyes closed, they cross their arms over their chest and bow when they are finished. The bow signifies their return to subservience.

After the show dinner is served at Hamdi Restaurant with a spectacular view of Bosphorus and Galata.



Don't they get dizzy?



Hamdi Restaurant

## Need to know!

Price: ADULT €109 Duration: Half day Limited availability for 7-19 Guests Tour code: IST-24 Available itineraries: Eclectic Aegean





#### **PAINTING ON WATER: TURKISH EBRU ART**

his small and personalised workshop for a maximum of just eight participants offers the chance to discover a fascinating artistic technique that dates back to Seljuk and Ottoman times and was used for the production of imperial documents.

You will come away with knowledge and skill of something you probably never

Enjoy creating a bit of fun art while in Istanbul

knew existed and from the very heart of Turkish culture and tradition!

Such is its importance, the technique has UNESCO World Heritage Intangible Cultural Heritage status.

And it's also wonderful to enjoy creating a bit of fun art while in Istanbul. Ebru painting is also known as paper marbling.

It involves floating colour and creating designs on an aqueous solution and transferring that design to an absorbent material, such as paper or fabric.

> The resulting image has a decorative marbled design which has also been used for

centuries as a background for calligraphy, book binding, and stationery.

Be amazed as a local artist transforms colour pigments, oily water and paper into a mesmerising artwork and then it's your turn to be artistic and creative. With numbers limited you are able to make the most of one-to-one tuition as you put your new skills into practice and leave with the ultimate souvenir - a beautiful, self-created piece of artwork.

The workshop is suitable for all artistic abilities and children are welcome.



Create your own masterpiece

## Need to know!

Price: ADULT €99 Duration: Half day Limited availability for 7-15 Guests Tour code: IST-21 Available itineraries: Eclectic Aegean & Steps of Paul



#### **RHODES**



#### **MAKING POTTERY FIT FOR THE GODS**

f you have ever wanted to get into the very heart and soul of Greek culture and civilisation, this is the perfect opportunity.

This highly specialist tour gives a fascinating insight into, and a greater understanding of, the history of

Greece and how it developed. Pottery has played a huge part in Greek culture since the earliest times.

your artistic side! It's extraordinary beautiful, distinctive, colourful and elaborate and was considered to be a gift

Try out throwing,

modelling and discover

worthy of dedication to the Gods. And it represents an important record to help us understand the different periods of Ancient Greek life

There were four major pottery styles in Ancient Greece, red figure and black figure, Corinthian and geometric.

The ancient Greeks used ceramic vessels in every aspect of their daily lives, for storage, carrying, mixing, serving, and drinking, and as cosmetic and perfume containers. Today pottery plays a big role in the souvenir industry.

> This tour gives us a fascinating insight into this key aspect of Greek history. Rhodes has long

been known is known for its tradition in pottery and ceramics.

Records show how clay bricks from Rhodes were used in the construction of the dome of the magnificent Hagia Sofia Byzantine church in Istanbul.

We head to the north side of the

island enjoying the panoramic views of the sweeping Rhodian countryside.

At the Bonis Ceramic Factory we find out about the various techniques adopted in potterv making. After a demonstration from one of the craftsmen, you will be invited to enhance your pottery skills and gain a very good handson understanding of the various techniques in order to help you make your own ceramic item. It will be shipped back to you.

After your hard work you will have earned some refreshing ouzo and Greek meze at the factory showroom before we head back to Rhodes Town

This tour has a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 16 guests and lasts four and half hours.

## Need to know!

Price: ADULT €109 Duration: Half day Limited availability for 10-16 Guests Tour code: RHO-17

Available itineraries: 4 Night Iconic Aegean & 3 Continents







#### **SANTORINI**



#### **MUSIC, MYTHS AND HISTORY**

Properties of the second secon

It's charming, enchanting and absorbing and here you can live in the moment with the realisation there you are experiencing something very special.

Here your soul can really rejoice.

The pace of life is peaceful, calm and relaxed, a world away from the what we might know as normal life.

The main square with its tall pine trees and delightful coffee shops is the focal and the perfect place to take in the atmosphere.

Capture the moment and the feelings and hold on to them on our guided walking tour exploring the traditional Cyladic architecture that gives Santorini island its unique look.

Wander through the remains of a Venetian fortress and see the historical 18th century monastery of Profitis Ilias, which is closed to the public but remains home to one solitary monk.

Here are the most breathtaking views over the island.

We travel to Megalochori, a remarkably preserved village of Cycladic and neoclassical architecture. Stroll through rustic streets and marvel at homes dug into the volcanic rock.

Then we head to the Symposion Music and Mythology Cultural Centre for a musical presentation which creates an interactive journey using mythological narration and fifteen hand-crafted wind and string instruments.

The tour explores the history and architecture of the former winery and we will enjoy a cup of honey wine. Back at Fira Town there is free time to shop and explore on your own. The cable car ticket is included.



## Need to know!

Price: ADULT €119 Duration: Half day Limited availability for 9-14 Guests Tour code: SAN-16

**Available itineraries:** 4 Night Iconic Aegean, Idyllic Aegean & Eclectic Aegean



# Seeking ADVENTURE

ou can't keep an adventurer down. With iconic viewpoints and a fair share of thrills and spills to be had, a little excitement can go a long way in making your Celestyal getaway one to remember. Comfort zone? What comfort zone? The crystal-clear Aegean is not just for a splash, if you've got what it takes to get a little physical. Life jacket strapped and paddles in hand, you can embark on the trail of history's pirates along the coast of Rhodes, dipping from cove to cove atop the glistening turquoise waters. The mystical allure of the Aegean coastline calls for a good hike too, and where better to swap your sandals for walking boots than Milos? Follow the route through the heart and soul of the island before taking a well-earned dip on the famous Sarakiniko beach, or take a geological journey with a local expert to the stunning ancient rock formations.

### Swap your sandals for walking boots and enjoy our islands on foot!

And if you've got a thirst for speed that you just can't quench, a fourwheeled voyage awaits on Kusadasi, where the thrills of a buggy ride across the open plains is another tale for the scrap book.

Push the boundaries or take the plunge. As it has for centuries with guests and locals alike, authentic adventure beneath the Greek sun awaits for you in many forms.



#### A GEOLOGICAL WONDER 4X4 ADVENTURE

his is an intriguing journey of discovery where you will be immersed in the geological treasures of Milos.

It's a tour to stimulate the mind, body and soul.

Milos emerged from the sea during a volcanic

eruption so it is little surprise this southernmost island in the Cyclades is a breathtaking

geological wonder as well as one of the most beautiful places on earth.

We travel by 4x4 and go where conventional vehicles cannot. We can see, feel and hear the real Milos.

You will be awestruck by this experience, based on the Miloterranean Geo Walks, an extensive network of seven stunning paths. Our tour includes a short guided visit to the Milos Mining Museum, an outdoor experience, allowing us to learn more about the mining history of the island thanks to a team of cartographers, historians, forestry experts, geologists and mining engineers together with the help of a

lecturer from the museum.

#### You will see, feel and hear the real Milos

museum. There's the chance to see the Obsidian Collection of

Zafeiris Vaos. It consists of artifacts made of obsidian, an igneous rock characteristic of Milos and forms a very important chapter in the archaeology of early Aegean toolmaking.

Then we will experience the abandoned salt fields, the thermal waters of Kanava (weather permitting), the crater of Fyriplaka and the fumaroles of Kalamos. There's also the famous sulphur mines and Aggeria, one of the biggest open bentonite mines in the world.

This is an exclusive tour with a maximum of four people in each vehicle. And it's a real sensory experience.



## Need to know!

Price: ADULT €129 Duration: Half day Limited availability for 3-12 Guests Tour code: MIL-09 Available itineraries: Idyllic Aegean





#### **TREK TO THE HEART AND SOUL OF MILOS**

his wonderful trek of discovery with an experienced guide takes us along the northern part of the island and one of its most impressive and awe inspiring landscapes.

Of all our excursions, this will bring us the closest to the natural

environment and you may well feel it to have a real spiritual dimension.

Our first stop is the Cave of Papafragas for a chat about its archaeological and

geological history. Centuries ago, Papafragas was a base for pirates to hide and is now one of the most visited destinations on the island.

Now our hike begins. The coastal path gives us four very different landscapes and is relatively flat making it easy for the average hiker. Part way through there's a stop for water, fruit and a short break.

There is no shade on the trek so everyone is asked to come fully prepared.

Our walk is around 6.5km and finishes in Sarakiniko where we will

> be able to swim in the cove and fully appreciate this unique location.

The north winds have shaped the

greyish-white volcanic rock into an amazing shape.

The dazzling white rocks forming large and small caves in the sea, reflect the sunlight by day and the moonlight at night, creating the impression of a lunar landscape.

The breathtaking tour is around five hours, with the trek taking three hours.



Cave of Papafragas



# Rock formations of Sarakiniko Need to know!

Price: ADULT €119 Duration: Half day Limited availability for 5-15 Guests Tour code: MIL-14 Available itineraries: Idyllic Aegean

Discover the lunar landscape of Sarakiniko



#### **SEA KAYAKING AND THE MESMERISING MILOS COASTLINE**

rom our ship to your kayak. We have an intrinsic fascination with the sea.

So what better way to experience to stunning volcanic island of Milos than leisurely paddling our way along part of the spectacular, mesmerising and mysterious southern coastline.

It's hard to think of a way to get closer to nature than this.

Here we can get up close and personal with the rich geological wealth of Milos including the breathtaking rock formations, deep sea inlets and caves and turquoise crystal clear waters of the Aegean.

The trip with a small group and a qualified guide begins at Fyriplaka heading to Gerakas beach (completely inaccessible from the

land) with a 40 minute stop for swimming and exploring a small sea cave. Then we paddle back on our sit-on-top kayaks towards the famous beach of Tsigrado (the one with the rope ladder) for a snorkelling stop in a small complex of sea caves.

Back at Fyriplaka there is for free time for swimming although this can be omitted to make the tour shorter. Kayaking is said to be one of the best ways to explore the laced outline of the Milos coastline.

On reflection, we think it's the best.

Join us on this beautiful, relaxing and peaceful half day trip and you will find it hard to disagree.

The mysteries will be unlocked during an unforgettable experience.



Available to guests over the age of 14 years old.

Guests must know how to swim. Conditions can influence if children will be accepted on a specific trip.

Guests must wear their swim suits and have their your towels. Dry bags will be provided to store personal belongings and take with you.

Sun protection: Hat, shirts, sunglasses and sun cream are highly recommended.

#### **Limitations:**

- Maximum height 1,95m
- Maximum weight 110kg

The famous beach Tsigrado (the one with the ladder)



Breathtaking rock formations



Price: ADULT €159 Duration: Half day Limited availability for 2-10 Guests Tour code: MIL-11 Available itineraries: Idyllic Aegean



#### RHODES



#### **A KAYAK ADVENTURE DISCOVERING PIRATE COVES**

ow this is the way to see Rhodes. From a very different and enthralling perspective.

Our Sea Kayak trip is quite an adventure.

Enjoy the rock formations and sea caves along the island's spectacular coastline.

Our expert guides know the best routes to the tucked away beaches, the marine life and the beautiful natural sculptures.

Our starting point is the beach at Kathara, near Faliraki and just 20 minutes from Rhodes Town, where we meet the guide for a safety briefing and our equipment.

The route includes the famous inlet and beach of Anthony Quinn - where the popular wartime epic film of 1961 'The Guns of Navarone' in which he starred was filmed.

It also featured Gregory Peck and David Niven. Quinn who was also the star of Zorba the Greek. was so taken with Rhodes, he bought some land nearby.

Enjoy panoramic vistas of stunning rock formations before venturing into hidden sea caves along the coast. There's also the chance to swim or snorkel in the clear blue waters of the Mediterranean.

All you need to concentrate on is the spectacular scenery and your paddling technique.

It's a rare opportunity to feel completely at one with the coastline of Rhodes at its most dramatic and thrilling.



Available to guests over the age of 14 years old.

Guests must know how to swim. Conditions can influence if children will be accepted on a specific trip.

Guests must wear their swim suits and have their your towels. Dry bags will be provided to store personal belongings and take with you.

Sun protection: Hat, shirts, sunglasses and sun cream are highly recommended.

#### Limitations:

- Maximum height 1,95m
- Maximum weight 110kg





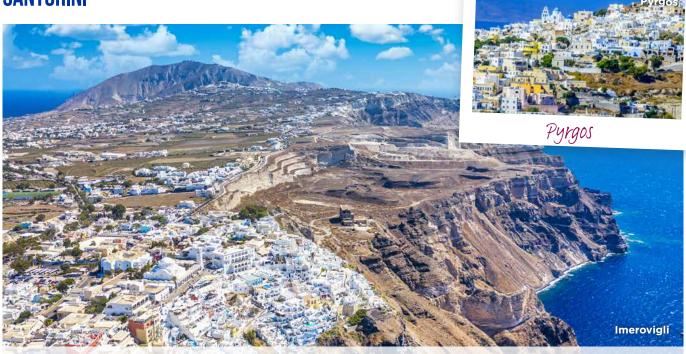
Anthony Quinn Bay



Price: ADULT €159 Duration: Half day Limited availability for 4-16 Guests Tour code: RHO-18 Available itineraries: 4 Night Iconic Aegean



#### **SANTORINI**



#### HIKING TO THE ULTIMATE BEAUTY OF OIA

s there a more awe-inspiring, captivating place than Oia? Unequivocally no, many would say, and who are we to disagree.

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder and this is beauty personified.

After all, it is one of the most photographed places in the world, famed also for

its spellbinding sunrises and sunsets.

Spectacular Oia

Picture postcard just Beauty is in the eye of the beholder and this is beauty personified

doesn't get anywhere near doing it justice. Mere words are not enough.

Oia is our ultimate destination on this walking tour, so you will be able to make up your own mind, but without doubt the experience will live long in the memory.

We make our way by coach up the hills from Athinios, following the twists and turns of the road, all the while taking in the astonishing landscape. We pass by the former capital Pyrgos and the vineyards on the slopes.

The walking tour along a natural trail begins at Imerovigli.

Passing abandoned chapels, the stunning caldera is always in view and on the horizon we can see the

islands of Nea Kameni, Palea Kameni and Thirasia

Then we reach Oia, high up on the

ridge of red rocks and hanging on the caldera.

From this panorama of whitewashed houses with colourful rooftops and pretty churches the views across the dazzlingly blue Aegean and the caldera below simply take your breath away.



Dia is our ultimate destination

Try some Greek meze and enjoy a little free time to visit the art galleries and antique shops, before our return to port - by coach of course, not on foot!

This tour is only suitable for fit persons. Not available in July and August.

## Need to know!

Price: ADULT €99 Duration: Half day Limited availability for 10-15 Guests Tour code: SAN-17

**Available itineraries:** 4 Night Iconic Aegean, Idyllic Aegean & Eclectic Aegean



#### **KUSADASI**



#### **THRILL OF THE RIDE BUGGY SAFARI**

visit to Kusadasi is all about Ephesus, correct? Well not quite.

A buggy safari may not have been on your agenda but it's another of our experiential options that is just a little out of the ordinary.

Experience the thrill of the ride in an exciting journey over the natural terrain, while absorbing the fascinating and varied landscape.

Sit behind the wheel, strap in and feel the wind in your hair as we really go off the beaten track.

You will be fully safety briefed, fitted with a helmet and set off with an experienced guide on an easier course.

Once you have gained full confidence you'll head to tougher

and more challenging terrain, through forest, marshes, dusty roads, creeks and mud, spotting wildlife on the way and seeing spectacular views of the Aegean.

The buggies are comfortable, safe and easy to steer and manoeuvre

and all the while your guide is on hand.

A stop at a local beach for a swim or a bit of relaxation may

also be on the itinerary.

All vehicles and routes are inspected weekly to ensure a safe and comfortable trip.

It's an exceptional tour and something very different, but be warned. You might get a bit muddy or dusty or both!

But take it from us, it's worth it.



Spectacular scenery



Prepare to get messy!

## Need to know!

Price: ADULT €69 Duration: Half day Limited availability for 10-20 Guests Tour code: KUS-10 Available itineraries: Idyllic Aegean





Drive your own

off-road buggy, and

roar through wild

landscapes

# Art and ARCHAEOLOGY

t's not hard to appreciate the historic significance behind these beautiful islands. But you already know that. Everything you see stems from an unparalleled history of pioneers - the architecture, the culture, the food. Curious minds

never stop learning, and among the profound and precious ruins of ancient worlds, you'll find many a story worth retelling.

The diverse experiences available on our excursions extend far beyond food, drink and sunshine. Everyone has a different version of their perfect holiday. And whatever yours may be, an afternoon spent drinking in the rich history among stunning ruins will live long in the memory. With every step you take through world-famous sites, the footsteps of those who walked there thousands of years ago will come to life during your own educational odyssey.

Archaeology is all about uncovering true culture. And while Turkey has many delights, burrowing deeper into the country's far-reaching past is an experience designed for the explorer more than the tourist. To really understand the culture that surrounds you, and where Turkey really came from, could mean getting your sandals a little dusty. Cure your curiosity, and roam among the ruins with one of our archaeological excursions.

Statue of Arete

Cure your curiosity, and roam among the ruins with one of our archaeological excursions

#### **KUSADASI**



#### **ANCIENT CIVILISATIONS WITH AN EXPERT ARCHAEOLOGIST**

sometimes you visit a place and metaphorically rub your eyes because you can't quite believe you are there.

We think Ephesus is one such destination.

Every step we take brings us closer to the incredible civilisations of the Hellenes, Romans and Ottomans.

And Ottomans. Here once stood one of the Seven Wonders of the World, the Temple of Artemis.

Our visit to Ephesus is the very essence of experiential travel and we are proud to be able to show it to you in the company of an expert archaeologist-guide as we feel, see and touch ancient history.

What a magnificent experience to take away and hold onto forever.

Ephesus ranks among the world's most beautiful classical cities.

St John and the Virgin Mary visited and here St Paul wrote one of his most celebrated epistles, the Letter to the Ephesians.

Beginning at the Magnesium Gate

What a magnificent

experience to take

away and hold

onto forever

 we walk gently and leisurely downhill
through
Ephesus' marble streets, passing historicallysignificant sites

such as the gymnasium, Temple of Hadrian, Upper Agora and Roman Baths.

Opposite Hadrian's Temple, at the foot of the Bulbul Hill and the covered part of the archaeological site, protected from the heat and natural elements, lie the Houses of Koressus or Terrace Houses.

It was here that the wealthy families of Ancient Ephesus lived. These villas are excellently preserved, especially the interior decor. The oldest houses so far unearthed date from the 1st Century BC, were built on two storeys and even had hot and cold and a heating system, clay pipes under the floor.

Then we come to the breathtaking Celsus Library, built in 135 B.C. and lavishly decorated with facades, columns and sculptures. The library once housed 12,000 scrolls of papyrus manuscripts, making it one of the largest in the ancient world.

A short walk away is the spectacular Greek Theatre, able to seat 24,000.

From here St. Paul preached to the populace, imploring them to give up their worship of Artemis and embrace the Christian faith.

Only foundations and fragments of the magnificent Temple of Artemis remain at Ephesus but just being at the site of one of the Seven Wonders is something special.

## Need to know!

Price: ADULT €89 Duration: Half day Limited availability for 10-20 Guests Tour code: KUS-11

**Available itineraries:** 3 & 4 Night Iconic Aegean, Idyllic Aegean & 3 Continents





# Book ahead for these **BEAUTIFULLY AUTHENTIC EXCURSIONS**

s you'll see, these are no ordinary trips ashore. We've gone further and deeper to create a wonderful portfolio of crafted excursions that offer a more personal insight and experience into the local character of our beautiful blue region.

Due to the special nature of the excursions, where numbers are strictly limited, they are only available when pre-booked two weeks before you sail, so we urge you not to delay if you wish to join us on our authentic adventures.



Exploring streets on foot



Making memories in Mykonos

STRICTLY LIMITED -PRE-BOOK ONLY\*

#### **GUIDE TO SYMBOLS**



Short or no walking involved.

Easy walking: General walking over an even surface.



Moderate walking: Moderate amount of physical activity such as walking over uneven surfaces and climbing stairs. Might not be recommended for guests with walking difficulties.



Hard walking: High amount of physical activity for extended periods of time. Recommended only for sporting guests with good physical health.



Includes visits to religious sites, knees and shoulders must be covered.



It is recommended to bring your swimming suit and a towel.



Shopping with an experienced guide.

All timings and order of visits are subject to change depending on traffic congestion of the sites and weather conditions.

Operation of tours may be subject to the time of the year - please check at time of booking.

Excursions require a minimum participation, noted on each excursion page.

Please be aware of the dress code in order to enter the monasteries; legs and shoulders should be covered, no shorts, long skirts (below the knee).

Terms and conditions are available at: www.celestyalcruises.com/shorex-conditions



Meal included on this excursion.



Refreshments included on this excursion.



Please be advised it is recommended that you take a bottle of water for your journey.



Panoramic, nature, landscapes.



Cultural experience: This tour will feature art, architecture, history and religion.



Folklore: We focus on local habits, traditions, food and tasting.

Adventure and fun.



Suitable for families travelling with children.

#### Half day - up to 5 hours Full day - 6 hours and above

\*Pre book and cancellation period is up to two weeks prior to embarkation date.

## **YOUR GREEK WELCOME IS WAITING!**

We can't wait to share the beautiful Blue. All we're missing is you!





Experience life. Experience the journey

For more information and bookings please visit **celestyal.com** or your local travel agent