

## Golden Splendour 3 Day Cruise Excursions

### Ancient Ephessos KUS-A / KUS-AA

Air-conditioned Coach - Foot

Duration: 3 hours

Depart the thriving town of Kusadasi and drive along the coast through the flourishing countryside to reach Ephessos, famous in antiquity for its Temple of Diana - one of the seven wonders of the ancient world - and later the home of St John. As you arrive at Ephessos, disembark your coach and enter the ancient site through the Magnesian Gate. Continue on, following your guide as you marvel at the innumerable monuments such as the Forum, the Odeon, the Library of Celsus, the Thermal Baths of Scolastika and the Great Theatre, built in the Greek era and reconstructed in the Roman period, which is still renowned for its remarkable acoustics. Observe the symbols all around and marvel at the fact that one is still able to read the inscriptions in the ancient Greek language. As your guided tour comes to an end, walk back to your coach along the Arcadian Way, where once Mark Antony and Cleopatra rode in procession. Driving back to Kusadasi, on a hill above Selcuk, just outside Ephessos, view the Basilica of St. John erected over his grave in the 6<sup>th</sup> century AD by the Emperor Justinian. Downhill, lies the site of the famous Temple of Diana, today in ruins. Before returning to the ship, enjoy free time in Kusadasi to shop for every conceivable item, such as carpets, jewellery, local souvenirs, leather goods and Turkish delights.

**Please Note:**

Due to extensive walking, comfortable and non-slip shoes are recommended.

### The House of Virgin Mary & Ephessos KUS-B / KUS-BB

Air-conditioned Coach - Foot

Duration: 3½ hours

Depart the thriving town of Kusadasi and drive along the highway to reach Mt Koresos. Situated in a small valley, it is here where you will visit the humble chapel that 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 Ephessos and accompanied by your Turkish guide, walk through the Magnesian Gate, which is the entrance to the ancient city of Ephessos. Your guided walking tour will take you through one of the most magnificent excavations in the world. See the Odeon, 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, where St Paul preached, the largest theatre in antiquity having a capacity of 24,000 people. Walk back to your coach along the Arcadian Way, where Mark Anthony and Cleopatra once rode in procession. While driving back to Kusadasi and just outside Ephessos, view the Basilica of St John erected over his grave in the 6<sup>th</sup> century AD by the Emperor Justinian. Downhill lies the site of the famous Temple of Diana, today in ruins. Before returning to the ship, enjoy free time in Kusadasi to shop for every conceivable item, such as carpets, jewellery, local souvenirs, leather goods and Turkish delights.

**Please Note:**

Due to extensive walking, comfortable and non-slip shoes are recommended.

### Traditional Turkish Baths KUS-C / KUS-CC

Air-conditioned Coach

Duration: 3 hours

Minimum Participation: 20 persons

One thing not to miss whilst visiting Turkey is a visit to a local Turkish Bath, otherwise known as a hamam. Like the harem, this Roman and Byzantine tradition was adopted and then perfected by the Selcuk Turks. It was not merely a place where believers could fulfill the Islamic precept of cleanliness, but was also a place where one could mingle, socialize and gossip. The Turkish Bath that you will visit today is one of the newest Turkish baths in Kusadasi, located only 4 km outside of the centre of Kusadasi. Upon arrival, you will be taken into the dressing room where you will be cloaked with a pestamal, a colourful checked wrap as well as takunya wooden clogs. From here, you will be taken to the Gobek Tasi, a large round stone which graces the centre of the hararet (baths), where you will warm up for approximately 15 minutes. Afterwards, enjoy a sauna, followed by a rubbing down and then a massage with foam before being taken to a hot steamed bath in order to wash yourself down. After this amazing experience, you will gather in the saloon where you will be given a new pestamal accompanied by a glass of hot apple tea. Before returning to the ship, enjoy free time in Kusadasi to shop for every conceivable item, such as carpets, jewellery, local souvenirs, leather goods and Turkish delights.

**Please Note:**

This Shore Excursion is ONLY operates from May to October.

### St John's Monastery & the Grotto of Revelations PAT-A / PAT-AA

Air-conditioned Coach - Foot

Duration: 2 hours

Depart the port of Scala by coach and enjoy a short drive up to the Monastery of St John, which has been magnificently built within the walls of a strong fortification. As you follow your guide and walk uphill towards the entrance of the Monastery, marvel at this impressive structure, which was built 900 years ago. View the courtyard, the Monks' dining room and the old bakery before visiting the main church with its outstanding frescoes and interior decoration. Your next point of interest is the beautiful, but small museum which houses priceless ecclesiastical treasures such as books and

manuscripts, mosaics, icons, splendid medieval textiles and vestments as well as jewellery. At the end of your visit, return to your coach and continue on to the nearby Grotto of the Apocalypse, where above stands the church of the Apocalypse, a sub-unit of the main Monastery. Take care as you walk down the steps to visit the Grotto. Once inside, see the silver niches in the wall, that mark the pillow and ledge used as a desk by the author of the Book of Revelations as well as the three-fold crack, made by the Voice of God, emphasizing the honour of the Trinity. After this splendid glory, return to the port and the ship.

**Please Note:**

Bare shoulders and shorts are not permitted in the Monastery; please consult the Pursers' Office for the correct dress code. Passengers that have difficulty in walking are advised that a strenuous uphill climb is involved to reach the Monastery.

**Patmos Scenic Tour PAT-A / PAT-AA**

Air-conditioned Coach - Foot

Duration: 2½ hours

Minimum Participation: 30 persons

For those of you wishing to relax and enjoy the beautiful scenery that Patmos has to offer, then this tour is designed especially for you. Depart the charming little port of Scala by coach and accompanied by your guide, you will first enjoy a visit to the Grotto of the Apocalypse. Take care as you walk down the steps to visit the Grotto. Once inside, see the silver niches in the wall, that mark the pillow and ledge used as a desk by the author of the Book of Revelations as well as the three-fold crack, made by the Voice of God, emphasizing the honour of the Trinity. After this visit, you will then make your way to the heart of Patmos, to Chora, a unique village with white houses built in the typical Aegean style. Here you will have a short photo stop, marvelling at the beautiful panoramic views offered. Your drive will then take you south of the island, passing by the idyllic fishing village of Grikos, then onto the northern side of the island to the rural village of Kampos. Upon arrival, depart your coach and make your way to the central square, where you will be offered light refreshment accompanied by a traditional local sweet. Afterwards, your coach will take you back to the port.

**The Palace of Knossos HER-A / HER-AA**

Air-conditioned Coach- Foot

Duration: 3 hours

From the Venetian lion-guarded port of Heraklion enjoy a short drive to Knossos, once the capital of the prehistoric Minoan civilization and thought to house the original Labyrinth with the mythological Minotaur. Upon arrival, follow your guide and visit a section of the excavated and partially reconstructed Palace of King Minos, as well as the surrounding area. Housed in the King's Palace is the Hall of the Royal Guard, decorated with frescoes and shields, the Hall of the Double Axes and the King's Chamber with the alabaster throne amidst paintings of griffins and lilies. And of course, the Queen's Apartment, adorned with murals of dolphins and spirals reminding us of the legend of the Labyrinth. After this extensive visit, return to your coach and drive back to Heraklion. Before returning to the ship by coach, enjoy a guided tour of the extraordinary Archaeological Museum, viewing the unique items from the Minoan culture or enjoy free time in the town, browsing at the many shops available.

**Please Note:**

Those passengers wishing to visit the Archaeological Museum must pay their own entrance fee. The use of a flash in the Museum is strictly forbidden. The King's Chamber and the Queen's Apartment are presently closed for planned restoration.

**CretAquarium HER-D / HER-DD**

Air-conditioned Coach - Foot

Duration: 3 hours

Minimum Participation: 30 persons

Venture to the underwater depths of the Mediterranean Sea, where all will be enchanted by the CretAquarium and its magnificent creatures. Depart the port of Heraklion and drive along the eastern coastal road, arriving at the CretAquarium. Occupying roughly 5,000 m<sup>2</sup> the CretAquarium is part of the building complex Thalassocosmos operated by the Hellenic Center for Marine Research (HCMR). Accompanied by your guide, enjoy a comprehensive visit of up to four thousand marine organisms housed in 32 tanks, especially designed and constructed containing 1.6 million litres of seawater and visible to the public through 300 m<sup>2</sup> of glass and/or transparent acrylic materials. There are fifty viewing points, allowing visitors to observe these living sea creatures in their natural habit, as well as special cameras, which allow you to see the hidden spots in specific tanks. For those wishing further information on various organisms, there are also touch screen information points. Such species to be seen are the Short Snouted Seahorse, the Moon Jellyfish, the Sandbar Shark, the European Lobster and the Yellowtail Clownfish. At both the entrance and exit of the aquarium there is also a coffee shop and central meeting point. After this spectacular visit, return to your coach and make your way back to the Port of Heraklion and the vessel.

**Oia Village & Fira Town SAN-B / SAN-BB**

Boat - Air-conditioned - Foot - Cable Car

Duration: 3½ hours

Your destination is Oia Village, the crowning glory of peace and tranquility. Built on the northern part of the caldera rim, it has been the inspiration of many artists due to its magnificent location and superb views of the caldera, the rest of the island and the Aegean Sea. Leave the vessel and by local tender to be taken to the Athenios Harbour where you will board your coach. Drive uphill along the rocky sides of the caldera and pass through an array of traditional villages before

reaching the unique village of Oia with its typically Cycladic architecture and houses resembling bird nests tucked away into the dramatic cliffside. Follow your guide along cobble-stoned streets, walk through the village, marvelling at the wonderful panoramic views as well as the traditional architecture. Enjoy time in Oia on your own, perhaps by wandering through the many art galleries or just relaxing over a cup of coffee. Meet back up with your guide at the specified time and place to make your way to Fira, the picturesque capital of Santorini, built on the caldera rim. Here enjoy free time on your own before making your way by cable car or mule to the small pier of Scala, where tenders will take you back to the ship.

**Please Note:**

During unfavourable weather conditions, this excursion will commence from Fira Town, instead of Athenios harbour. Due to extensive walking, comfortable and non-slip shoes are recommended.

**The Volcanic Tour & Hot Springs SAN-D / SAN-DD**

Boat - Air-conditioned Coach - Foot - Cable Car

Duration: 3½ hours

Minimum Participation: 30 Persons

Directly from the vessel, you will board a traditional little boat and sail through the deep blue waters of the Caldera to arrive at the lava islet, otherwise known as Nea Kameni. Upon arrival at Erinia cove, follow your guide as you climb the slopes of the dome of Nea Kameni. The path to the top of the dome is for its entire length traced out over volcanic sand lava fragments and bombs from the 1570 – 1573 eruptions. On both sides of the path, note the volcanic bombs, which are actual fragments of lava that were ejected in a molten state and cooled very rapidly as they travelled through the air, thus acquiring a uniform shape. As you reach the top, marvel at the magnificent views, which can be seen from every angle. Your climb down the volcano will be that of the same route. Afterwards, you will be given free time to swim in the Hot Springs. You will then return to Athenios Port where your coach will take you up to Fira Town, the picturesque capital of Santorini. Here enjoy free time on your own before making your way by cable car or mule to the small pier of Scala, where tenders will take you back to the ship.

**Please Note:**

It is recommended that you remain on the designated path in order to avoid the danger of provoking landslips or rockslides for in many places the lava blocks are precariously balanced. Passengers are advised to take sunhats, sunglasses, beach towel and sturdy shoes along with them. It should be noted that passengers that have difficulty in walking are advised that a strenuous uphill climb is involved in order to reach the top of the volcano.

<b>Kusadasi</b>	Code	Adult €	Child €
Ancient Ephessos	KUS-A	50.00	25.00
House of Virgin Mary & Ephessos	KUS-B	56.00	28.00
Traditional Turkish Baths *	KUS-C	35.00	35.00
<b>Patmos</b>			
St John's Monastery & Grotto of Revelations	PAT-A	45.00	23.00
Patmos Scenic Tour	PAT-B	30.00	20.00
<b>Heraklion</b>			
The Palace of Knossos	HER-A	55.00	28.00
CretAquarium	HER-D	48.00	30.00
<b>Santorini</b>			
Oia Village & Fira Town	SAN-B	47.00	24.00
The Volcanic Tour & Hot Springs *	SAN-C	45.00	23.00