



## Itinerary

### 19 Day Ultimate Europe: Greece, Italy, Croatia, Turkey & More

**\*IMPORTANT NOTE:** This is the default version of the tour itinerary. Any extra nights, optional tours or other amendments, will not be visible on this version. If you have booked extras, Please contact [info@myholiday2.com.au](mailto:info@myholiday2.com.au) for a personalised version of your itinerary\*

#### DAY 1: Arrive Athens

Arrival at the Athens airport, welcome assistance and transfer to your hotel in Athens.

**MEALS:** None

**OVERNIGHT:** 4 Star Hotel, Athens

#### DAY 2: Athens City Tour

A morning panoramic tour will take you around to the most important monuments and landmarks of the city including: Panathinaikon stadium, Zappeion, Temple of Olympian Zeus, Hadrian's Arch, Syntagma square, Parliament, tomb of the unknown soldier, Schliemann's house, Academy, University, National Library, and old Parliament. You will then visit the Acropolis, including the Propylaea, the temple of Athena Nike, the Parthenon, and the Erechtheion; and the Acropolis Museum where findings from the area, like the Caryatides, have found their home. Afternoon at leisure to explore Plaka, and the historical center at your own pace.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** 4 Star Hotel, Athens

#### DAY 3: Athens ~ Delphi ~ Kalambaka

Today, you will depart for a 2-Day tour, heading to Delphi. Built on the slopes of mount Parnassos overlooking the vast olive groves and the Corinthian gulf, Delphi used to be the most sacred spot in the world and a pilgrimage center for many centuries in antiquity. You will admire the Sanctuary of Apollo, walk the Sacred way, see the temple of Apollo, home of Pythia (the oracle), before continuing your drive to Kalambaka for overnight.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** 4 Star Hotel, Kalambaka

#### DAY 4: Kalambaka ~ Meteora ~ Athens

This morning, you will be visiting Meteora, one of the most beautiful areas of mainland Greece and part of UNESCO's list of world heritage monuments. Amazing rock formations, like towers of sandstone, stand ageless, and have provided sacred retreat for monks over the centuries. A number of monasteries are

hidden on top of Meteora and the view over the plain is breathtaking. Return drive to Athens in the afternoon, stopping on the way at Thermopylae, to see the statue of Leonidas, commemorating the battle of the 300, against the Persians.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** 4 Star Hotel, Athens

### DAY 5: Embark Cruise Ship ~ Departure from Piraeus Port

At the indicated time, transfer to the port to embark on your 14 night cruise of the Mediterranean. Check in is open from 12:00 to 16:00 for a 17:00 departure. Once checked in, grab yourself a cocktail and head to the observation deck as you sail away.

**Depart: 17:00**

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** Celestyal Journey

### DAY 6: Thessaloniki, Greece

“There is a homeland for everyone, while there is Thessaloniki,” wrote Nikiforos Choumnos, a 14th-century Byzantine dignitary and scholar. And he was right: Thessaloniki is a gorgeous and cosmopolitan seaside city and the largest in Greece after Athens. This historic capital of the Macedonia region was founded in 315 BC by the Macedonian king Cassander and named after his wife who was a half-sister of Alexander the Great. This is the city that in the days of Philip II of Macedon would steal Athens’ thunder. It’s relatively flat but there are simply mountains of history: Roman and Byzantine ruins, early Christian heritage (the Apostle Paul brought the first message of Christianity here in 50 BC), Pontic Greeks and Armenians, remnants of Venetian and Ottoman rule and perhaps most movingly, a remarkable Jewish history too. Centuries of cultural commingling has also made Thessaloniki a culinary nirvana, with almost too many great restaurants and little eateries to count.

**Arrive 12:30 | Depart 18:00**

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** Celestyal Journey

**OPTIONAL TOURS:** Royal Tombs of Vergina \$130 | Land of Alexander The Great \$198 | Panoramic Thessaloniki \$114

### DAY 7: Kusadasi, Turkey

In the great atlas of Mediterranean antiquity, few cities shone as bright as Ephesus, part of Izmir province and the most culturally significant and best-preserved ancient city in Turkey. And Ku?adas?, which dominates the gulf of the same name along this stretch of the Aegean coast, is one of the most vibrant and popular destinations in modern Turkey. It’s been an important port for centuries, hosting a variety of civilizations and for a time some of the most infamous pirates of the Mediterranean. The Öküz Mehmet Pasha Caravanserai was built in 1618, confirming Ku?adas?’s role as a prominent Ottoman trading center. Sizzling beaches next to sparkling blue water, lively bars and a bustling Grand Bazaar add up to

exciting times in this buzzing Turkish city, but above all, it is the chief point of entry to the magnificent ruins of Ephesus. South of Ku?adas?, ruins of the ancient Greek city of Miletus are located near the mouth of the legendary Meander River.

**Arrive 13:00 | Depart 20:00**

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Celestyal Journey

OPTIONAL TOURS: House of Virgin Mary & Ephesus \$182 | Ancient Ephesus & The Terrace House \$182 | Ancient Ephesus Through the Ages \$158

## DAY 8: Heraklion, Crete

The larger cities of Crete, which are the capital, Heraklion, Rethymno and Chania, are all on the north coast. Heraklion, situated along the midpoint of the island's north coast, takes its name from Herakles—better known as Hercules. Heraklion was the port of the Minoan palace city of Knossos, the site of the Kastro (Castle) and Megalo Kastro (Grand Castle) in Byzantine times, the Arab fortress known as Chandakas, the flourishing Candia under the Republic of Venice. The Venetians built the ramparts which still encircle the city center and the Rocca al Mare fortress, now called Koules, at Heraklion's inner harbor. Opposite the port, you can still see a series of mighty stone arches, which were the Venetian shipyards. The Republic of Venice invested a lot of time and treasure in defending Heraklion, which finally fell to the Turks, who renamed it Kandiye, in 1669. The heart of Heraklion is Morosini fountain at Liontaria or Lion's Square but the star cultural attraction of the city, and indeed of all of Crete, is the Heraklion Archaeological Museum. It is home to the largest collection of artifacts from the Minoan civilization, the earliest in Europe. You will be amazed at what the islanders created here from around 2700 BC up to around 1450 BC. Ornate Minoan jewelry including the golden bee pendant, the Phaistos Disc and exquisite figurine of the bull leaper—which item will stir your imagination the most? The Minoan palace ruins of Knossos are found just outside the city center at a colossal Bronze Age site that encompasses hundreds of interconnected walls and rooms including what celebrated archaeologist Sir Arthur Evans identified as the megaron or Throne Room. With a little imagination, you can picture legendary King Minos holding court over the labyrinth that housed his son, the mythical half-man, half-bull known as the Minotaur, here. Decorated pithoi storage jars and multicolored frescoes abound on the site too, while many of the original frescoes such as that of the "Prince of Lilies" and famous bull leaper are now housed in the Heraklion Archaeological Museum. Another palatial, open-air Minoan archaeological site is at Phaistos, south of Heraklion.

**Arrive 10:00 | Depart 19:00**

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Celestyal Journey

OPTIONAL TOURS: Knossos Palace & The Archaeological Museum \$130 | Venetian Heraklion & Archaeological Museum \$124

## DAY 9: Santorini, Greece

Few islands have the power to captivate the way Santorini does. Gorgeous and cosmopolitan, it's famous for that classic Greek island look with white painted houses clustered along narrow winding lanes,

perched atop reddish-black volcanic cliffs that tumble down more than a thousand feet to the wide caldera. It's easy to see how this island, the pearl of the Cycladic archipelago, can lay claim to being the source of the legend of Atlantis, either. Santorini, or "Thera" in Greek, is most celebrated for the dramatic views of its volcanic caldera, formed during a massive eruption around 1646 B.C. That eruption shook up the island—making its center actually collapse—but also created some of the most spectacular scenery in the world.

**Arrive 07:00 | Depart 00:30**

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Celestial Journey

OPTIONAL TOURS: Spectacular Oia Village Perched on the Caldera Rim \$130 | Cruise to Santorini's Islands & Volcanos \$130 | Akrotiri Village Excavations \$130

## DAY 10: Mykonos, Greece

There is no Greek island more synonymous with carefree times, glitz and glamour than Mykonos. At just 85 square kilometers Mykonos is a small island but it's one that positively crackles with excitement, especially in the long Greek summer. Mykonos has a very rocky terrain and its windiness (the meltemia) can sometimes surprise you, but you'll also find some of the most amazing beaches around and a cosmopolitan vibe you simply won't find anywhere else. The main town, Chora, is famous for its winding lanes lined with gleaming white cubiform houses with painted blue doors and sophisticated shops and restaurants, but beyond the town, Mykonos retains a refreshingly bucolic atmosphere. In fact, Nikos Kazantzakis, author of *Zorba the Greek*, once wrote that "Mykonos is wonderful...the air, the earth, the dry mountain, the simple people, their dialect, the figs, the grapes, the thyme, the mint..." He might have added the madness—in a good way—because from the 1960s onward Mykonos has been a magnet for bohemians, celebrities and revelers of all stripes. A hedonistic playground of beachside DJs and summer partying—an official brochure from 20 years ago says the island shows "a complete lack of restraint and climate truly divorced from anything that resembles an everyday routine." Just know that you don't have to actually party from dusk until dawn to experience the best of Mykonos (though that's certainly an option!)—all you need to do is surrender to the Mykonian sun for a bit, enjoy the breezes and be glad that you can experience a slice of this very special and mythic place.

**Arrive 08:00 | Depart 02:00**

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Celestial Journey

OPTIONAL TOURS: Mykonian Countryside Tour with Chora & Little Venice \$124 | Delos: Sacred Island & Apollo Sanctuary \$130 | Mykonian Dinner \$140

## DAY 11: Milos, Greece

The horseshoe-shaped Greek island of Milos, which is the southernmost island of the western Cyclades, is a real unsung pearl of the Aegean. Volcanic by origin, the island has a stunning array of landscapes and beaches with backdrops of multicolored cliffs and water that dazzles with crystalline greens and blues. Its captivating geological formations are the result of undersea eruptions that started perhaps up to three million years ago, which piled up layers of lava that reacted to the island's geothermal waters and

created a kaleidoscope of rock formations and sea stacks like the rock of Arkouda that jut up spectacularly from the sea floor in many places along the island's 126 kilometers of coastline. Look carefully and you can sometimes even see steam rising from fumaroles on both land and sea, and there are abundant mineral springs on the island too. Milos does not have a caldera like nearby Santorini, but it is full of marvels forged by nature, making it a sensory feast unlike any other.

**Arrive 09:00 | Depart 19:00**

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Celestyal Journey

OPTIONAL TOURS: Step Back in Time \$130 | Nostalgic Milos Cruise - Land & Sea \$214

## DAY 12: Piraeus Port City, Athens

Piraeus is located in the Athens Riviera, 8 kilometres southwest of Athens' city centre, along the east coast of the Saronic Gulf. If you did not arrive early to explore Athens, you now have the opportunity to take one of the shore excursions into the city of Athens, or explore at your own leisure.

**Arrive 07:00 | Depart 17:00**

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Celestyal Journey

OPTIONAL TOURS: Athens Monuments & The Acropolis \$140 | Athens Tour & The New Acropolis Museum \$140 | Panoramic Athens & Corinth Canal Crossing \$148 | The Acropolis & The New Acropolis Museum \$156 | Athens Food on Foot \$214

## DAY 13: At Sea

Enjoy a relaxing couple of days at sea to take advantage of the ship's array of amenities. Take full advantage of the onboard activities and indulge in the chef's exquisite cuisine. Kick back and soak up the sun as you are treated to drinks from the bar. For relaxation lovers who prefer less hands-on treatment, the Drift Den (relaxation room) is the perfect way to escape within. Soak in the heavenly comfort of a jacuzzi or settle down in the uplifting heat of the steam room and come out feeling like a brand new you. Thermae offers a jacuzzi, showers, steam baths and relaxing stone beds and next door, your Drift away in comfortable sun-chairs and enjoy tea and water. Complimentary one day access to Grand Suite guests and those who have purchased a treatment. Alternatively, why not participate in handicrafts, language lessons, traditional dancing, games or exercise. There is plenty to do.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Celestyal Journey

## DAY 14: Kotor, Montenegro

Where red roof tops contrast with crystal blue waters and towering peaks. Kotor's spectacular bay is an awe inspiring backdrop to a medieval maze of stunning architecture, Venetian palaces, ornate churches, museums and squares with cafes, bars and restaurants.

**Arrive 09:00 | Depart 19:00**

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Celestyal Journey

OPTIONAL TOURS: Historic Kotor & Budva \$124 | Highlights of Montenegro \$140 | Meet The Life of The Locals \$224

### **DAY 15: Spilt, Croatia**

As our cruise ship approaches Split, the heart of the Dalmatian coast pulses with the rhythms of history and modernity. Prepare to lose yourself in the embrace of Diocletian's Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, as it unfolds its ancient Roman grandeur. Wander through the palaces timeless corridor before emerging into a seaside promenade, vobratnt with the buzz of cafes and lively markets - a perfect snapshot of Splits enduring spirit

**Arrive 08:00 | Depart 16:00**

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Celestyal Journey

OPTIONAL TOURS: Shore excursion options available on board

### **DAY 16: Venice, Italy**

As we glide into the embrace of Venice, the dance of light on its cancal ushers in a day of enchantments. Stepping off the cruise, be swept away by the serenade of gondoliers, the grandeur of St Marks Basilica, and the vibrant tapestry of markets. Lose yourself in the labyrinth alleys, where every turn reveals a scene worthy of canvas, and indulge in the city's rich tapestry, art, and culinary delights.

**Arrive 08:30 | Depart 17:00**

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Celestyal Journey

OPTIONAL TOURS: Shore excursion options available on board

### **DAY 17: At Sea**

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Celestyal Journey

### **DAY 18: Katakolon, Greece**

The sleepy fishing village of Katakolon is remarkably one of the lesser-known Greek islands - despite its unerring boast as the origin of the world-famous Olympic Games. It is here where you will discover the ancient city of Olympia together with a wealth of priceless artefacts and sculptures from the ancient world.

**Arrive 08:00 | Depart 16:00**

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: Celestyal Journey

OPTIONAL TOURS: Half Day Olympia & Archaeological Museum \$138 | Olympia & Wine Tasting \$138 | Olympia & Olive Oil Tasting \$192 | Olympia Hiking \$159

### **DAY 19: Piraeus Port, Athens ~ Departure**

This morning your cruise will pull in to Piraeus Port for the last time and you will disembark from 0800. We wish you a pleasant onward journey, wherever you are headed.

**Depart 08:00**

MEALS: Breakfast