

Aegean Experience & 3 Days Cruise

Duration: 7 Days / 6 Nights

Day	Location	Details	Meal
1	Arrival	You will be greeted at the airport by our local representative and transported to your hotel. Along the way, enjoy your first taste of the sights and sounds of this remarkable city, birthplace of the West.	
2			
3	Athens	Don't skip breakfast. Our guide today will take us through three thousand years of history and sights that will leave you breathless. Under the towering Acropolis – impossible to ignore from anywhere in the city – we travel back in time. First, you'll marvel at the sheer scale of the Olympieion, the Temple of the Olympian Zeus, the largest temple in Greece; the project started in the sixth century BC and said to have taken 700 years to complete. You'll get a sense of the direct transmission of Greek culture to Rome (and from Rome to all of us) when we view the Arch of Hadrian, erected to mark the boundary of the city in 132 A.D. Inscriptions here make clear that one side is the "city of Theseus (Athens)", but the other is that of Hadrian (or "Hadrianopolis"). Appropriately, as we leave the ancient for the modern, we pass by the Panathinaiko (Panathenaic Stadium), built on ruins of an ancient stadium to host the first modern Olympic Games in 1896. Café-lined Syntagma (Constitution) Square, really the center of the city, is our next point of orientation. To our east is the Old Royal Palace, fittingly now the Parliament, and the Memorial of the Unknown Soldier. The National Library is but a few blocks to the north and we will make a stop at the New Royal Palace (now Presidential Mansion), sited along one of the most beautiful streets of the city and directly across from the National Gardens. Our tour to this point is really a preamble for our next stop, the Acropolis. You'll enter the Acropolis by the same steps as did Pericles, Hadrian and Lord Byron, past the charming Temple of Athena Nike, through the Propylaea and find yourself in the shadow of that most famous of ruins, the Parthenon. In its life, it has been a temple, a church, a mosque and a store room (sadly, for gunpowder) yet it still stirs the soul and fires the imagination of generation upon generation. It is, quite simply, the soul of Greece. This afternoon is yours to enjoy as you wish – a siesta, maybe shopping or a visit to one of the many museums (the new Acropolis Museum is stunning...). Tonight you'll stay in Athens and enjoy one of the most compelling views anywhere.	Breakfast
4	Cruise to Mykonos	Today we celebrate the sea. After breakfast you'll board the cruise for Mykonos, a dazzlingly - bright island with a sophisticated "jet-set" atmosphere. Stroll at your leisure through white-washed, flower-draped alleys, visit the church of Paraportiani or perhaps just enjoy a glass of wine on the promenade and savor the views. Tonight we'll sleep aboard ship.	Breakfast Dinner
5	Rhodes	Morning will find us in Rhodes. You're welcome to explore the island on your own, but for those who wish, we have an optional excursion to the Temple of Athena and the associated ruins found on the rocky acropolis of ancient Lindos. Once again, we'll spend the night	Breakfast Lunch Dinner

Highlights

- Professional Tour Director
- Assistance at the airport upon arrival
- Airport transfer
- Porterage at airport and hotels
- 3 night's Hotel Accommodation
- 3 night cruise by Celestial Crystal Cruise
- 2 Shore Excursions
- All entrance fees to places of interest
- All hotel taxes and service charges

Meals

- 6 Breakfasts, 2 Lunch, 3 Dinners
- (B) Breakfast (L) Lunch (D) Dinner

shipboard.

6	Kusadasi • Patmos	This morning's port of call is Kusadasi, (Turkey). We highly recommend an optional excursion to Ephesus – no finer example of a Greco-Roman city exists.... This afternoon we'll set sail for Patmos, a rugged island, pivotal in the early years of Christianity and home to the beautiful and tranquil Monastery of St. John. Again, we're on board for the night.	Breakfast Lunch Dinner
7	Athens	Your Aegean cruise ends this morning at the Port of Piraeus. The day is yours to spend as you wish -- Athens won't run out of things that inspire exploration.... We'll spend our last night here.	Breakfast
8	Departure	After breakfast, we'll bid farewell to the friends we've made, exchange some numbers and transfer to the airport for our flights. No doubt you'll spend the flight home going through countless photos and reliving moments of this remarkable trip.	Breakfast