

# CLIA ITINERARY EXPERIENCE FACTSHEET

## GREECE AND TURKEY

### ITINERARY - 7 NIGHTS



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|--|--------|
| • <b>Day 1:</b> Depart Piraeus (Athens)    | Greece |
| • <b>Day 2:</b> Kuşadası                   | Turkey |
| • <b>Day 3:</b> Istanbul                   | Turkey |
| • <b>Day 4:</b> At Sea                     |        |
| • <b>Day 5:</b> Mykonos                    | Greece |
| • <b>Day 6:</b> Rhodes                     | Greece |
| • <b>Day 7:</b> Santorini                  | Greece |
| • <b>Day 8:</b> Disembark Piraeus (Athens) | Greece |

### Key port:

## PIRAEUS, GREECE

**Embark (Day 1) and Disembark (Day 8)**

**Docking: At Pier**

Most cruisers only know Piraeus as the busy cruise and ferry port of Athens but head over the hill to the other side of town and you find marinas filled with swanky yachts, chic hotels, lively bars, restaurants and beaches. For those who know Athens, it's an interesting alternative place to stay (and very easy to get into the city). Most cruises from Piraeus run from April to October; a few operate year-round.



# Day One & Eight

## PIRAEUS, Greece

**Docking:** At pier

### In a nutshell

Piraeus is one of the busiest ports in the Mediterranean, not just for cruise ships but also ferries that link the mainland to Greece's islands. There are three cruise ship terminals and berths for up to 11 vessels. The port can take ships up to 370 metres in length, which includes the world's largest vessels. The port is 20 minutes from Athens, which is easily accessible by train, bus or taxi.

### Arrive early

Add at least four days in Athens or Piraeus so there's time to visit the Acropolis, home of the world-famous Parthenon, and ancient Agora, to get a cultural fix in the Acropolis Museum and explore the warren of narrow streets in the Plaka. There are tours to the Corinth canal, the Temple of Poseidon at Cape Sounion and Delphi, the home of the ancient Greek Oracle. From Piraeus, there are daytrips by ferry to the islands of Hydra and Poros.



### Getting there

British Airways, easyJet, Aegean Airways, Wizz Air and Ryanair offer non-stop flights from London to Athens Eleftherios Venizelos International Airport. Flight time is just under four hours.

The airport is 33km from the city. Taxi and train transfers from the airport to Athens take about 40 minutes and cost €40 and €9 respectively. A bus from the airport costs €5.50.

Taxi, train and bus transfers from the airport to Piraeus take 70 minutes, 85 minutes and 90 minutes respectively and cost €56, €9 and €5.50. Prices are per person one-way. Timings can vary depending on traffic.

### Visas

British passport holders do not need a visa to visit Greece.

### Climate

Greece has warm springs, steamy summers when temperatures can hit the high 30sC and pleasant autumns. Winters are cool and can be rainy.

### Opening times

Shops are generally open 10am to 9pm weekdays and 9am to 8pm Saturdays. They are closed Sundays. Souvenir shops in busy tourist areas are open seven days a week.

# Day Two

## KUŞADASI, Turkey

**Docking:** At pier

**Walking ashore?** Shops and market stalls are just a few minutes walk from the cruise terminal.

**Gateway to:** Ephesus

**Hero excursion:** Step back to time on a tour of the temples, houses, theatres and stunning Library of Celsus in the ancient Roman city of Ephesus.

**Active excursion:** Swap ancient for modern on an 4x4 quad bike ride along dusty trails and over muddy streams.



# Day Three

## ISTANBUL, Turkey

**Docking:** At pier

**Walking ashore?** Ships dock at the Yolcu Salonu cruise terminal in Karaköy (Galata). The terminal is underground and large so it is quite a hike just to get out. Key attractions are on the other side of the Galata Bridge. Passengers can walk over the bridge, take tram T1 in the direction of Sultanahmet (Turkish lira are needed to buy a ticket) or a taxi (agree a price first).

**Gateway to:** Istanbul

**Hero excursion:** City tours take in key sights including Topkapi Palace, Hagia Sophia, the Blue Mosque, Grand Bazaar and Spice Market.

**Active excursion:** Strap on the comfy shoes for a walking tour around the bazaars and historical Ottoman Inns that few tourists visit.



# Day Four SEA DAY



# Day Seven

## SANTORINI, Greece

**Docking:** Tender port

**Walking ashore?** From the tender pier, take the cable car to Fira, the capital (€6 one way), or hike up the steep zig-zag path (more than 500 steps so walking down makes more sense).

**Gateway to:** Santorini

**Hero excursion:** A best-of tour ticks off the villages of Oia and Pyrgos, a local winery, the view from the top of Profitis Ilias Mountain and Fira.

**Active excursion:** Take a boat to the island of Nea Kameni to hike to the volcano crater then cool off in hot springs off neighbouring Palea Kameni.



# Day Six

## RHODES, Greece

**Docking:** At pier

**Walking ashore?** Exit the port, cross the road and you're in the walled city.

**Gateway to:** Rhodes

**Hero excursion:** A guided tour inside the walled city that takes in the Gothic-style medieval palace of the Grand Master of the Knights of Rhodes.

**Active excursion:** Hike to the acropolis on a tour to Lindos. It's a steep climb but worth the effort for the views and ancient Greek temple ruins at the top.



# Day Five

## MYKONOS, Greece

**Docking:** At pier or tender

**Walking ashore?** If docked, there are shuttle buses or water taxis (€2pp one-way) from the port to the town of Mykonos. If at anchor, tender boats go directly to the town.

**Gateway to:** Mykonos and Delos

**Hero excursion:** Pair an island tour with a guided walk through the maze-like streets of Mykonos Town.

**Active excursion:** Step back in time to the days of ancient Greece on a walking tour of Delos, the mythical birthplace of Apollo and Artemis.



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### SELLING TIPS AND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### Sell to first-timers or more experienced cruisers?

With its mix of ancient, modern and seriously chic, this itinerary is guaranteed to appeal to seasoned cruisers and make first-timers fall in love with holidays at sea. Target clients seeking, sun, sand, sea, history, culture and great food.

#### When to go?

Cruises operate mostly between April and the end of October.

#### At sea to port ratio?

There's a lot to see and do on this itinerary so several itineraries have a day at sea part-way through the cruise to give passengers some time to relax.

#### Currency?

Greece takes the euro (EUR), Turkey the New Turkish lira (TRY).



#### Anything for Children?

- **Rhodes, Mykonos** (pictured) and **Kuşadası** all have sandy beaches and safe swimming.
- In **Santorini**, kids can go swimming and snorkelling on catamaran cruises around the island.

#### Opportunities for exercise

- Hiking in **Santorini** and **Lindos**
- Exploring among the ruins of the **Roman city of Ephesus** (pictured).

#### Food & souvenirs

- Tomato kleftedes (usually served with a yogurt dip) in **Santorini**
- Lacana (stewed goat, chickpeas and herbs) in **Rhodes**
- Balik ekmek (pictured - grilled fish in bread with onions and lettuce) in **Istanbul**.
- And you can't go home without some authentic Turkish Delight for friends and family.

### *Photo Moments Of The Cruise!*



Pose with the Greek temples on the acropolis of Lindos.



Have an Insta moment gazing out to sea from the Santorini village of Oia.



Get snap happy at the famous windmills of Mykonos.