AUGUST 13, 2021
ATLAS ASHORE – LAND EXCURSIONS
15-NIGHT HISTORIC TREK THROUGH TURKEY AND ISRAEL
When you first arrive, you will find yourself in an area that resembles the surface of the Moon and it is here your adventure begins. Start by seeing the natural citadel of Uchisar, which will allow you to get an extraordinary panoramic view of the region. Enjoy lunch at a nearby restaurant before taking the walking path that connects to the Göreme Valley. This valley houses the Göreme Open Air Museum which features churches and monasteries hewn out of rock that are adorned with colorful frescoes. From here, drive to the town of Avanos for check-in at the Anka Cave Suit Hotel where you will spend the night. The evening is at your leisure with dinner on your own.

Day 3 If you choose, start the day with an early morning optional hot air balloon ride over the region. It’s an unforgettable experience as you silently glide over the dramatic landscape while the sun rises and casts its light on the scenery below. Coming back to earth, have a late breakfast at your hotel and then set out for a full day of exploring. Head first to the south of Nevsehir for a visit to the underground city of Kaymakli. Used for centuries as a place of refuge, these underground cities were mostly abandoned after 1923.

Continue with a drive to the Ihlara Valley with its incredible gorge that has a stunning river running right down the heart of the valley. Near the province of Aksaray, it is still considered part of the southern Cappadocia region. Take an easy walk along a leafy nature trail dotted with numerous cave churches you can explore. Then, following lunch in the picturesque town of Beli Sirma, you will head to Derbent and the Guvercinlik (Pidgeon) Valley for an orientation tour and a chance to do some shopping. At the end of your activities, return to the hotel for dinner and the remainder of the evening is at your leisure.

Day 4 Your final day starts with breakfast at the hotel and then a transfer to the airport where you will catch your flight back to Istanbul where you will embark the ship.

Special Note: This tour includes a significant amount of moderate to vigorous walking/standing that includes numerous steps and uneven surfaces. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests and is not considered suitable for those with walking difficulties or other health concerns. Guests should be in reasonably good physical condition. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing; flat walking shoes; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen. Shoulders and legs must be covered when entering any religious sites. All shopping and/or carpet demonstrations are optional and at the guest’s discretion.

IST302: BYZANTINE TREASURES - ISTANBUL'S MOST ICONIC LANDMARKS - AUGUST 14, 2021 | $75pp

ISTANBUL, TURKEY

ISTANBUL, TURKEY

IST510PRE: EXPLORING THE VALLEYS, CAVES AND EXTRAORDINARY ROCK FORMATIONS OF MAGICAL, MYSTICAL CAPPADOCIA - AUGUST 13, 2021 | $999pp

4 HOURS | MEALS: SNACK

Come explore magical, mystical Cappadocia, with its fairy tale landscape of natural wonders and colorful history.

After arriving in Istanbul, you will transfer to your overnight hotel and check-in. The remainder of the day and evening are at your leisure.

Day 2 Wake up early and after breakfast, transfer to the airport to catch your flight to Kayseri in central Turkey – the gateway to the Cappadocia region. The area at times seems like something out of a dream, with its deep valleys, fissures, and slopes that were turned into cone-shaped columns as mother nature carved away at the lava rock. The volcanic rock is also perfect for carving entire buildings and the area is famous for these carved homes, stables, churches, and small cells used by hermits and monks. Many people still live in these rock formations, which are naturally cool in the summer.

Another short walk brings you to the world-famous St. Sophia, the Church of the Divine Wisdom. Built during Emperor Justinian’s reign in AD 537, it remained the greatest church in Christendom until the conquest of Constantinople in 1453 by Sultan Mehmet II who ordered it to be converted into a mosque. The great dome, the semi domes, the north and south tympana, the vaults of the narthex, the aisle and the gallery at one time were all covered with gold mosaics, of which a good number have still survived.

TO BOOK YOUR ATLAS ASHORE LAND EXCURSIONS, CALL OUR VOYAGE SPECIALISTS AT 1.844.44.ATLAS (28527)
Continue on by boarding your coach and traveling to the legendary Grand Bazaar. The Grand Bazaar is the largest and oldest covered bazaar in Turkey with ninety-two streets that house more than 4,000 shops. Side-by-side you will find shops selling a variety of Turkish handicrafts, Oriental carpets, rare jewels and of course, a wealth of inexpensive souvenirs. It is here where you will best experience Istanbul’s definitive Oriental atmosphere. If you choose, there is an optional carpet weaving demonstration you can attend prior to entering the Bazaar.

Following your visit to the Bazaar, drive back to the port.

Special Note: This tour includes approximately three hours of moderate walking/standing that includes a few steps and some uneven surfaces. The tour is available to wheelchair guests who have a collapsible wheelchair, are able to make their own way on and off the transportation and have a companion to assist them; however, the Underground Cistern is not wheelchair accessible. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing; sturdy, flat walking shoes with a closed toe; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen. Shoulders and legs must be covered when entering religious sites.

IST306 ISTANBUL’S OTTOMAN INFLUENCE - THE BLUE MOSQUE, TOPKAPI PALACE AND GRAND BAZAAR - AUGUST 14, 2021 | $75 PP

5 HOURS | MEAL: NONE

Focused on the Ottoman heritage of Istanbul, this tour will visit the famous Blue Mosque and Topkapi Palace before ending with a visit to the Grand Bazaar.

Make the short drive from the port to the Blue Mosque. Also known as the Sultan Ahmed Mosque, it was completed in 1616 and is a triumph of harmony, proportion, and elegance. The mosque was part of a complex that included tombs, fountains, kitchens, and a bath, while its 260 colorful windows allowed the sunlight to spill into the interior. When you see the multitudes of blue Iznik tiles that cover the walls, you will come to understand how the mosque got its popular name, Blue Mosque.

Another brief walk finds you at the stunning Topkapi Palace, residence of the sultans for almost three centuries. Located on a promontory that extends between the Bosphorus and the Golden Horn, the views here are simply magnificent. Not only was the palace the imperial residence of the Sultan and his court, but it was also the seat of the government for the Ottoman Empire and housed upward of 4,000 people. During your visit, see the general exhibitions that contain artifacts and collection pieces that once belonged to the Ottoman Sultans.

Continuing on, walk to a nearby restaurant for lunch before commencing your afternoon of touring. Within walking distance of the restaurant is world-famous St. Sophia, the Church of the Divine Wisdom. Built during Emperor Justinian’s reign in AD 537, it remained the greatest church in Christendom until the conquest of Constantinople in 1453 by Sultan Mehmet II who ordered it to be converted into a mosque. The great dome, the semi domes, the north and south tympana, the vaults of the narthex, the aisle and the gallery at one time were all covered with gold mosaics, of which a good number have still survived.

Your final journey on foot brings you to the Byzantine Underground Cistern. The Cistern dates from the sixth century and features a roof supported by 336 Corinthian columns. Marvel at the ancient craftsmanship that created this "Underground Palace" as you tour the illuminated interior with your guide.

At this point, rejoin your coach and drive to the legendary Grand Bazaar. The Grand Bazaar is the largest and oldest covered bazaar in Turkey with ninety-two streets that house more than 4,000 shops that sell a variety of Turkish handicrafts, Oriental carpets, rare jewels and of course, a wealth of inexpensive souvenirs. It is here where you will best experience Istanbul’s definitive Oriental atmosphere. If you choose, there is an optional carpet weaving demonstration you can attend prior to entering the Bazaar.

Following your visit to the Bazaar, transfer back to the ship.

Special Note: This tour includes over 5.5 hours of moderate walking/standing that includes some steps and uneven surfaces. The tour is available to wheelchair guests who have a collapsible wheelchair, are able to make their own way on and off the transportation and have a companion to assist them; however, the Underground Cistern is not wheelchair accessible. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing; sturdy, flat walking shoes with a closed toe; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen. Shoulders and legs must be covered when entering religious sites. All shopping and/or carpet demonstrations are optional and at the guest’s discretion. On Fridays, the Blue Mosque may be replaced with the Nuruosmaniye Mosque.
Next, continue on foot to the nearby stunning Topkapi Palace, residence of the sultans for almost three centuries. Located on a promontory that extends between the Bosphorus and the Golden Horn, the views here are simply magnificent. Not only was the palace the imperial residence of the Sultan and his court, but it was also the seat of the government for the Ottoman Empire and housed upward of 4,000 people. During your visit, see the general exhibitions that contain artifacts and collection pieces that once belonged to the Ottoman Sultans.

At this point, rejoin your coach and drive to the legendary Grand Bazaar. The Grand Bazaar is the largest and oldest covered bazaar in Turkey with 92 streets that house more than 4,000 shops that sell a variety of Turkish handicrafts, Oriental carpets, rare jewels and of course, a wealth of inexpensive souvenirs. It is here where you will best experience Istanbul’s definitive Oriental atmosphere. If you choose, there is an optional carpet weaving demonstration you can attend prior to entering the Bazaar.

Following your visit to the Bazaar, transfer back to the ship.

Special note: This tour includes over 3.5 hours of moderate walking/standing that includes some steps and uneven surfaces. The tour is available to wheelchair guests who have a collapsible wheelchair, are able to make their own way on and off the transportation and have a companion to assist them. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing; flat walking shoes with a closed toe; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen. All shopping and/or carpet demonstrations are optional and at the guest’s discretion. On Fridays, the Blue Mosque may be replaced with the Nuruosmaniye Mosque.

When your visit comes to an end, make the return drive back to the pier.

**CKZ301: ANCIENT TROY – A UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE - AUGUST 15, 2021 | $89**

Explores 4,000 years of history as you explore one of the most famous archaeological sites in the world on this visit to the ancient city of Troy.

Relax and enjoy the passing scenery as you make the drive to Troy, location of the fabled mythological story of Helen and Paris. As the myth tells us, Helen was the daughter of King Sparta and was abducted by Paris, a Trojan Prince. This action sparked hostilities between the Trojans and the Achaeans which led to the Trojan war. The story goes that unable to take the city, the Trojans left behind the famous Trojan horse filled with soldiers and that is how they conquered the city. While there was in fact a Trojan War that took place around the 12th century BC, it is likely the story of Helen, Paris and the Trojan horse were simply a mythological fable.

Troy is not only a Turkish National Park it is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site. While the ruins here comprise one of the world’s most famous archaeological sites, you will not find the usual marble columns and other artistic remains. Instead, the ruins at Troy serve as a poignant reminder of long-past wars, the suffering of the people and how once thriving cities were reduced to rubble.

When your visit comes to an end, make the return drive back to the pier.

**Special Note: This tour includes approximately 90 minutes of moderate walking/standing that includes numerous steps and uneven surfaces. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests and is not considered suitable for those with walking difficulties. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing; flat walking shoes; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen.**

**CKZ302: THE HISTORIC GALLIPOLI CAMPAIGN - AUGUST 15, 2021 | $85**

Spend the day reliving the history of the most important and dramatic battle of World War I that took place in Gallipoli. This national park preserved with marble and bronze monuments that are strewn about, will no doubt evoke emotionally touching reactions.

From the ship, drive to the ferry port and board a ferry to Eceabat where your exploration of the historic events that took place here commences. Also known as the Canakkale Dardanelles Campaign, it took place from February 17, 1915 to January 9, 1916. Following a failed naval attack, British forces began plans for largescale troop landings on the Gallipoli Peninsula using British, Australian, New Zealand and French forces. Following limited progress and very heavy casualties, the Allied forces finally withdrew with the last of the troops leaving Helles on January 9, 1916.

Today, with your guide narrating, you will see Kilit Bayir and Seddülbahir, visit Anzac Bay, view the famous battlefields of Nek and the trenches at Johnston's Jolly, stop at the Lone Pine Cemetery and Memorial, and the New Zealand Memorial at Chunuk Bayir. Before retracing your route back to the port, visit the Gallipoli Museum with its expansive collection of war time memorabilia.

**Special Note: This tour includes approximately 2.5 hours of moderate walking/standing that includes some steps. The tour is available to wheelchair guests who have a collapsible wheelchair, are able to make their own way on and off the transportation and have a companion to assist them. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing; sturdy, flat walking shoes with a closed toe; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen.**
To book your Atlas Ashore land excursions, call our voyage specialists at 1.844.44.ATLAS (28527)

**ACTIVITY LEVEL: MILD**

**ACTIVITY LEVEL: MODERATE**

**ACTIVITY LEVEL: VIGOROUS**

**BOZCAADA, TURKEY**

**BZC301: THE GEMS OF BOZCAADA - BOZCAADA CASTLE, ALAYBEY MOSQUE AND MUSEUM - AUGUST 16, 2021 | $65**

- **3.5 HOURS | MEAL: NONE**

  Often referred to as the “Diamond of the Dardanelles,” Turkey’s third largest island never fails to delight with its windmills, vineyards, pristine beaches, and laid-back atmosphere. Today, explore the island’s most important and authentic attractions.

  Drive with your guide to the heart of town where you will walk along narrow alleys lined with colorful traditional homes and abundant flowers. In some areas it’s as if time has stood still. Your first stop is at Bozcaada Castle which was reconstructed by the Ottoman Sultan Mehmet II in the 15th century and further repaired by Mahmut II in 1815. Interestingly, it has been built over the remains of several other castles. This latest castle is well-preserved, and its sheer size and dominance are more suggestive of a fortress rather than a castle.

  From the castle, walk to the Alaybey Mosque which was built on the foundations of a medieval Venetian structure in 1655. As you travel about, one has to wonder what other medieval remnants might be buried beneath your feet! A short walk away is the Aya Paraskevi monastery which faces Ayazma Bay and is home to the annual feast day of Agia Paraskevi, held on July 26th.

  Your walk continues on to the island’s small, but unique museum. An independent effort undertaken by M. Hakan Gürüney and his love of Bozcaada, the museum houses an interesting collection of fossils unique to the island, archaeological pieces, coins, maps, items left behind by French soldiers, photos and items that were used in the homes of both the Turkish and Greek residents.

  After your museum visit, you will have some free time to further explore the village on your own or make your way back to the tender area and return to the ship.

  **Special Note:** This tour includes over three hours of moderate walking/standing that includes numerous steps and some uneven surfaces. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests and is not considered suitable for those with walking difficulties. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing; flat walking shoes; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen. Shoulders and legs must be covered when entering religious sites.

**BZC302: BOZCAADA’S EXCELLENT VINICULTURAL HERITAGE – OLD TOWN VISIT AND WINERY - AUGUST 16, 2021 | $69**

- **4 HOURS | MEALS: SNACK**

  The famous Greek historian Herodotus quoted, “God created Bozcaada for those who visited there, to have a long life.” We are certain you will agree at the end of this tour that not only gives you an overview of this charming town, but also showcases its vinicultural heritage.

  Meet your guide at the port and travel into Bozcaada’s Old Town for a stroll through its quaint narrow streets. Be delighted by the colorful traditional homes you’ll find here and everywhere you look, there seems to be flowers in bloom. As you walk through these authentic streets, you will be able to witness the harmonious combination of Greek and Turkish architecture evidenced in the buildings.

  While the history and architecture of Bozcaada are noteworthy, its crowning glory is undoubtedly its vineyards and local wine production. The grape culture here is an inseparable part of life on the island. The vinicultural heritage here dates back almost 3,000 years and there is virtually no local resident who does not have some type of history or connection with wine making. In fact, archaeologists working on the island found coins dating back to 5 B.C. with the face of Zeus on one side and a bunch of grapes on the other, leading specialists to think that the island’s vinicultural history is perhaps one of the oldest in the world.

  The locals are only too happy to have you taste some of their lovingly produced wine and you will get that chance at one of the best wineries on the island. Enjoy touring the winery and learning more about the wine growing and production of Bozcaada’s excellent wines and afterwards, be treated to a tasting of some of their finest varieties.

  Leaving the winery, walk back to the town center where you can further explore on your own before rejoining your coach for the drive back to the port.

  **Special Note:** This tour includes nearly four hours of moderate walking/standing that includes numerous steps and uneven surfaces. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests and is not considered suitable for those with walking difficulties. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing; flat walking shoes; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen. Shoulders and legs must be covered when entering religious sites.
If you are looking for some sheer relaxation, Bozcaada’s pristine golden beaches and crystal-clear waters are just the place to refresh and reenergize yourself.

Drive from the port to one of the island’s beach clubs where a sun bed is reserved for you and you’ll have a few hours to unwind and soak up the sun. If you like, take a dip in the clear cool waters or simply relax on your lounger and do nothing, the choice is all yours. Complimentary bottled water is provided, and additional beverages and snacks are available for purchase.

Following your beach respite, return to the port feeling rested and ready for the next day’s adventures.

Special Note: Walking is primarily at the guests’ discretion during the 3.5 hours at the beach. The surfaces are mainly natural and uneven. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests and is not considered suitable for those with walking difficulties. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing; flat walking shoes; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen. Please bring a towel with you. Those who take part in any water activities do so at their own risk and responsibility.

**BZA303: BOZCAADA BEACH BREAK** - AUGUST 16, 2021 | $85pp

4.5 HOURS | MEAL: NONE

Explore one of the most popular ancient Greek cities in Turkey, renowned for its theater, Altar and oldest hospital in the ancient world.

From the port, drive along a scenic route that travels through beautiful countryside to the city of Pergamon. First settled by the Aeolic Greeks in the 8th century BC, the city came into prominence following the death of Alexander the Great in 332 BC. Because of its great library, many scholars and teachers made the city their home, and parchment paper was first invented here.
Arriving at Pergamon, first visit the Acropolis, which today is only accessible by cable car. Surrounded by three walls, the city had many public and private buildings, including temples and palaces. While there are very few traces of the walls today, remains of impressive monuments can still be seen, including the outstanding masterpiece of the Pergamon Altar. Pergamon was the northernmost of the seven churches of Asia cited in the New Testament Book of Revelation and was referred to as the Throne of the Devil.

Next, visit the Library of Pergamon, built by Eumenes II and considered to be second only to the library in Alexandria, Egypt. Continue on to the Temple of Trajan, built by Hadrian. The temple was built of marble and most likely on the site of a previous Hellenistic building. While here, you can view the ruins of the Zeus Altar, the finest altar ever built around the time of 180 BC that stood on its own with no temple. Most of the original altar and friezes are now housed in Berlin at the Pergamon Museum.

From here, drive to the Kızıl Avlu (Red Basilica), perhaps the largest and best-known structure in Pergamon. Made of red brick, the temple was dedicated to the gods of Egypt. Two pools in the temple with towers indicate ritual cleaning rites and a religious background that was neither Greek nor Roman.

Before leaving Pergamon, visit Asklepieion which lies at the base of the Acropolis. This ancient healing center was founded in the fourth century BC and was constructed around a sacred spring that still flows today. Over several centuries, it became one of the most renowned healing centers in the ancient world and was also notable for being the world’s first psychiatric hospital. Following your visit, transfer back to the port.

Special Note: This tour includes approximately three hours of moderate walking that includes numerous steps, natural and uneven surfaces, and some inclines. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests and not recommended for those with physical limitations or other health concerns. Participants should be in reasonably good physical condition. We recommend wearing lightweight, weather appropriate comfortable clothing; flat walking shoes with a closed toe; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen.


3.5 HOURS | MEAL: NONE

Step back into the ancient world with visits to some of Dikili’s most notable landmarks that showcase its illustrious past.

Drive from the port through a scenic countryside landscape of cotton fields and olive trees as you make your way to Pergamon Village. Your first stop here is at the Pergamon Museum which houses over 10,000 archaeological and ethnographic works. The archaeological artifacts belong to the Bronze, Archaic, Classic, Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine ages, and the ethnographic exhibits consist of Ottoman relics and articles from the Pergamum region.

Next, drive to the largest and most well-known attraction in Pergamon, the Kızıl Avlu (Red Basilica), a temple constructed of red brick and dedicated to the gods of Egypt. Two pools in the temple with towers indicate ritual cleaning rites and a religious background that was neither Greek nor Roman. It was also one of the Seven Churches of Asia Minor that was addressed by St. John in the Book of Revelation who referred to it as the throne of the Devil. After some time for photos here, you’ll return to the port.

Special Note: This tour includes approximately two hours of moderate walking that includes some steps. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests and may not be suitable for those with physical limitations. We recommend wearing lightweight, weather appropriate comfortable clothing; flat walking shoes; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen.


3.5 HOURS | MEAL: NONE

Enjoy a condensed visit to the popular ancient city of Pergamon to view its Acropolis, Library and Zeus Altar.

Drive from Dikili to Pergamon, passing through scenic countryside as you make your way to this impressive and important archaeological site. First settled by the Aeolic Greeks in the eighth century BC, the city came into prominence following the death of Alexander the Great in 332 BC. Because of its great library, many scholars and teachers made the city their home, and parchment paper was first invented here.

Arriving in Pergamon, first visit the Acropolis, which today is only accessible by cable car. Surrounded by three walls, the city had many public and private buildings, including temples and palaces. While there are very few traces of the walls today, remains of impressive monuments can still be seen, including the outstanding masterpiece of the Pergamon Altar. Pergamon was the northernmost of the seven churches of Asia cited in the New Testament Book of Revelation and was referred to as the Throne of the Devil.

Next, visit the Library of Pergamon, built by Eumenes II and considered to be second only to the library in Alexandria, Egypt. Then make your way to the Temple of Trajan, built by Hadrian. The temple was built of marble and most likely on the site of a previous Hellenistic building. While here, you can view the ruins of the Zeus Altar, the finest altar ever built around the time of 180 BC that stood on its own with no temple. Most of the original altar and friezes are now housed in Berlin at the Pergamon Museum. Afterwards, travel back to the port in Dikili.

Special Note: This tour includes approximately two hours of moderate walking that includes numerous steps, natural and uneven surfaces, and some inclines. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests and not recommended for those with physical limitations or other health concerns. Participants should be in reasonably good physical condition. We recommend wearing lightweight, weather appropriate comfortable clothing; flat walking shoes with a closed toe; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen.
KUS301: INTENSE EPHESUS: THE ICONIC ATTRACTIONS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM - AUGUST 18, 2021 | $105PP

6.5 HOURS | MEAL: LUNCH

Spend a wonderful day exploring all the main highlights of Ephesus and later, enjoy an authentic Turkish lunch.

Your day begins with a drive to the Virgin Mary’s House. Archaeological evidence dates the small house back to the sixth century; however, the foundations date back to the first century. Although there is no conclusive evidence Mary ever lived here, it has become a Catholic shrine and been visited by several Catholic popes and Catholic pilgrims.

Next, make your way to the Ephesus ruins, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that dates to the third-century BC. One of the largest Roman archaeological sites in the area, it was also where the Temple of Artemis once stood, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Today, you are able to see the numerous remains of the city which include the spectacular two-story Library of Celsus, the Odeon Theater and the 24,000 seat Great Amphitheater where St. Paul once preached. The perfect acoustics of this theater still make it a viable venue for magical musical performances today.

The next stop is the Ephesus Archaeological Museum in Selcuk. The small museum houses an incredible collection of Hellenistic and Roman statues, carved reliefs and numerous artifacts unearthed from the ruins of Ephesus. It is also home to the famous statue of Artemis (goddess of fertility).

Leaving the museum, you’ll be treated to a traditional Turkish lunch before continuing on to the ruins of the Basilica of St. John. The Basilica was constructed with four domes along a longitudinal axis and a pair flanking the central dome to form the arm of the cross. Beneath the central dome was the grave of St. John.

Returning to Kusadasi, there will be time for exploring on your own, shopping or an optional carpet demonstration.

Special Note: This tour includes nearly three hours of moderate walking/standing that includes numerous steps and uneven surfaces. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests and is not considered suitable for those with walking difficulties. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing, walking shoes, a sun cap, sunglasses, and sunscreen. Shoulders and legs must be covered when entering the Virgin Mary’s House. All shopping and/or carpet demonstrations are optional and at the guest’s discretion.

KUS302: EPHESUS LANDMARKS AND THE TERRACE HOUSES - HOMES OF THE WEALTHY EPHESIANS - AUGUST 18, 2021 | $85PP

4 HOURS | MEAL: NONE

Enjoy a visit to the Ancient Roman provincial capital and as a bonus, visit newly excavated dwellings that were home to the wealthy and important people of the city as evidenced by how finely they were decorated with exquisite mosaics and frescoes.

Ephesus was an important religious center, second only to Athens and later, Jerusalem. It kept its importance due to its well-placed port and its religious significance, which the locals were not above exploiting. Following Emperor Augustus’ proclamation that Ephesus was the capital of the Asian Province in 27 BC, the city became one of the most important in the extended Roman Empire. The majority of the buildings you will see date from the era when Ephesus had nearly one quarter million inhabitants.

Your visit to the Ephesus site begins at the Magnesia Gate where your guide will then lead you on a leisurely downhill walk through the marble streets of the city. The significance of the sites you are seeing will be explained by the guide and those include the Gymnasium, Odeon, Fountain of Trajan, Temple of Hadrian, Upper Agora, Town hall, Roman baths, a Byzantine house, and surprisingly efficient public toilets. And of course, no visit to Ephesus is complete without seeing the Library of Celsus. This two-story edifice is finely decorated with columns and sculptures and was erected in 135 BC.

A short walk away you will find the 24,000 seat Great Amphitheater where it is believed St. Paul preached to the Ephesians, imploring them to give up their worship of Artemis and embrace the Christian faith. The perfect acoustics of the theater still make it a viable venue for magical musical performances today.

The highlight of your visit may well be entry into the newly opened portion of the historic Terrace Houses which are located on the slopes behind Ephesus, opposite the Temple of Hadrian. These houses were inhabited by wealthy Ephesians and were finely decorated. Archaeological evidence points to them being built in the period of Augustus and continued to be inhabited until the seventh century AD.

Returning to Kusadasi, there will be time for exploring on your own, shopping or an optional carpet demonstration.

Special Note: This tour includes nearly two hours of moderate walking/standing that includes numerous steps and uneven surfaces. Some of the steps are glass. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests and is not considered suitable for those with walking difficulties or those with a fear of heights. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing, walking shoes, a sun cap, sunglasses, and sunscreen. Shoulders and legs must be covered when entering religious sites. All shopping and/or carpet demonstrations are optional and at the guest’s discretion.
This magical and exclusive evening event at the Celsus Library in Ephesus is truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Opened to us by special permission, your after-hours white glove dinner may well become your favorite holiday memory.

On arrival, walk the world-famous Marble Road down to the library where white linen-clad tables are set up within the Library's courtyard. As you are seated, you will no doubt agree that while this magnificent historic landmark is an incredible sight to behold in daylight hours, when seen lit up under the stars, it simply becomes both ethereal and breathtaking. At night, the spectacularly illuminated façade gives new clarity to the elegant details of the statues resting in their niches and the intricate details of the frames.

As you bask in the extraordinary ambience of this truly special evening, you will be served an elegant five-course, white-glove dinner, all while enjoying music performed by a trio from the Aegean Chamber Orchestra. It just doesn't get much better than this.

When your evening draws to a close, you will walk back to your transportation and return to the ship.

Special Note: This tour includes approximately 30 minutes of moderate walking over a slight incline and uneven surfaces. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests. Those with walking difficulties should contact the Excursions Desk to arrange alternate transportation. We recommend evening attire. This is not an Ephesus site visit. Each guest will receive a complimentary photo to commemorate the evening.

KUS309: EXCLUSIVE BEHIND-THE-SCENES TOUR OF EPHESUS WITH AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPERT - AUGUST 18, 2021 | $119pp

Explore behind-the-scenes at Ephesus with an archaeological expert as your guide and see areas not usually included in the public tours.

Travel from the pier to St. Paul’s prison, which is also known as the Watch Tower. Built by the Romans, its location on a hill by the seaside made it an ideal place to protect the surrounding peninsula. It is unclear if it served as a prison for St. Paul, but it is believed he was held here to protect him from the protests against him taking place in the Great Theater. Your visit here is exclusive in that this area is not open to the general public. The 10-minute walk up the hill is well worth the effort as it affords you a wonderful panoramic view of Ephesus and the surrounding area.

From here, drive to the upper gate of Ephesus where you will commence your guided walking tour of the site conducted by an archaeological expert. See the Grand Theater and Celsus Library and then continue on to the Agora, Domitian Temple, and Curetes Street. The information imparted by the archaeologist gives added insight into what you are viewing as it goes beyond the normal tour narration.

Continuing on, make your way to the Terrace Houses using a less-traveled path up the slope to the houses. Situated across from the Hadrian Temple, these homes of the wealthy Ephesians provide a significant look into their daily lives during the Roman period. Next, your behind-the-scenes walk will pass near St. Paul’s Cave, unearthing secret locations in Ephesus along with showcasing some incredible views of the site.

Leaving Ephesus behind, you will next drive to the House of the Virgin Mary. Archaeological evidence dates the small house back to the sixth century; however, the foundations date back to the first century. Although there is no conclusive evidence Mary ever lived here, it has become a Catholic shrine and been visited by several Catholic popes and Catholic pilgrims. Afterwards, you will drive back to the pier in Kusadasi.

Special Note: This tour includes approximately 2.5 hours of moderate to vigorous walking/standing that includes a significant incline, numerous steps, and uneven surfaces to negotiate. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests or those with other walking difficulties or mobility concerns. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing; walking shoes with a closed toe and non-slip sole; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen. We further recommend bringing a bottle of water from the ship. Shoulders, legs, and midriffs must be covered when entering religious sites. All shopping and/or carpet demonstrations are optional and at the guest's discretion.
While any visit to Kusadasi usually includes time at Ephesus, there are a multitude of wonderful attractions to see beyond there. This tour introduces you to two of those that are equally worth exploring and well-suited for those who have visited Ephesus in the past.

Leaving from the port, you will first set out for the House of the Virgin Mary. It’s a pleasant drive out to Mt. Pagus where a small, tree-lined path leads to a small stone cottage. Clinging to the side of Bulbul Mountain, it is believed to be the last home of the Virgin Mary, who traveled there in the company of St. John sometime around 40 A.D. near the end of her life. The home was officially recognized by the Vatican in 1896 after being described in visions by a German nun who had never seen it. In fact, it had yet to be discovered at that time. Today, both Christians and Muslims make religious pilgrimages to the site. Beside the house you will find a fountain where a sacred spring feeds three fountains that each bestow a unique blessing upon visitors.

Continue from here through the countryside to the nearby village of Sirince which is a perfect blend of Turkish and Greek cultures. Enjoy free time here to explore on your own, strolling its narrow streets with their quaint village homes and soaking up the atmosphere of authentic village life. Famous for its fruit wines, you will be given an opportunity to sample some of them at a local café.

Following your time in Sirince, you will transfer back to Kusadasi where you will have the option of being dropped off in the center of town or returning directly to the pier.

Special Note: This tour includes approximately two hours of moderate walking/standing that includes some steps and uneven surfaces. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests and may not be suitable for those with walking difficulties. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing; flat walking shoes; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen. Shoulders, legs, and midriffs must be covered when entering religious sites.

Spend time discovering two important and historical cities in the Kusadasi region, Didyma and Miletus.

Start with a scenic one-hour drive from the pier to Miletus, thought to be the oldest of the Ionian cities. The city was home not only to explorers and traders, but many well-known intellectuals as well, such as Anaximenes who contemplated the heavens; Anaximander, the father of geography; Thales, a pioneer of astronomy and geometry who calculated the height of the Pyramids in Egypt; and Hippodamus, the ancestor of modern city planners whose work you can observe in Miletus’ organized, grid-like pattern of streets. Once a great seafaring city, visitors today may wonder how that was given it is 5-miles from the sea. The answer is the Meander River which over the course of time left large deposits of silt that gradually built up the shoreline and distanced the city from the sea. Your visit here will last approximately one-hour, during which you can wander its ancient streets and the ruins of the amphitheater.

Continuing, travel to Didyma and see its famous Temple of Apollo. For as long as one can remember, there has always been a challenge to build the next “world’s tallest building” and that seems to be what the past inhabitants were striving for as they built the temple. Taking over 500 years to build, it was still never completed due to huge costs and engineering setbacks. Travelers from around the ancient world came here to seek the counsel of an oracle who was the voice of Apollo, the God who could not tell a lie. While only three of the original 100 columns remains, it is still possible to imagine the impressive beauty of the site that was the third largest man-made structure in the ancient world.

Returning to Kusadasi, you will have the option of being dropped off in the center of town or returning directly to the pier.

Special Note: This tour includes just under two hours of moderate walking/standing that includes some steps and uneven surfaces. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests and may not be suitable for those with walking difficulties. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing; flat walking shoes; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen.
PMS302: IN-DEPTH VIEW OF THE MONASTERY OF ST. JOHN AND ICON RESTORATION  
AUGUST 19, 2021 | $79.00

4 HOURS | MEAL: NONE

Discover the beauty and history of the fabled St. John Monastery and later, observe professionals as they work to restore medieval icons.

Drive the short distance from the port to the marvelous Monastery of St. John where you will have a comprehensive tour of the premises while learning of its fascinating history. The tithes of Byzantine emperors and countless private contributors have made this monastery the richest in the Dodecanese archipelago. Such wealth enabled the monastery to establish the Theological School of Patmos in 1713 which is still attracting students from all over the world today.

The monastery's imposing façade with its massive 15th-century walls and 17th-century battlements loom over the town and are in contradiction to its intimate and peaceful interior which features graceful archways, inlaid pebble stone floors and white-washed buildings. Start by visiting the monastery's five chapels, one of which contains the relics of its founder, St. John. Beautiful frescoes covering the chapel walls depict the story of The Voyages and Miracles of St John the Theologian. Next, visit the Treasury which is now a museum. Housed within its walls is a breathtaking collection of jeweled chalices, crowns, crucifixes, vestments, and old manuscripts that date back to 1073 and record the monastery's 900-year history. Perhaps one of the most important or perhaps the most important artifacts found here, is the Codex no. 67, also known as The Purple Codex, which contains extracts from the Gospel according to St. Mark.

A fascinating stop at the Icon Restoration Chamber allows you to observe the professionals at work as they carefully and lovingly work to restore these treasured artifacts.

Following your monastery visit, you are afforded some free time in town to stroll about and perhaps do some shopping, all while enjoying unrivaled views of the Bay of Patmos and the islands in the archipelago beyond. You will have the option of returning to the port with your guide or remaining in town to do some further exploration on your own, returning to the ship on your own and at your own expense.

Special Note: This tour includes just over one hour of moderate walking/standing that includes steps, inclines, and uneven cobblestone surfaces. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests and is not considered suitable for those with walking difficulties. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing; flat walking shoes; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen. Shoulders, legs, and midriffs must be covered when entering religious sites. Shorts are not permitted.
The island of Patmos is fabled for its myths and legends, but perhaps best known as the place St. John heard the voice of God and wrote the book of Revelation. This tour introduces you to the locations most closely associated with his time on the island.

Begin with a drive to the nearby Grotto of St. John. This small cave which has been converted into a beautiful chapel, is where he lived, saw his amazing visions, and wrote the book of Revelation. Within its walls you will see the stone that is said he used as a pillow, as well as iconostases built into the walls that depict his life there.

Next, travel on to the main town where you will visit the Monastery of St. John. The tithes of Byzantine emperors and countless private contributors have made this monastery the richest in the Dodecanese archipelago. Such wealth enabled the monastery to establish the Theological School of Patmos in 1713 which is still attracting students from all over the world today.

The monastery’s imposing façade with its massive 15th-century walls and 17th-century battlements loom over the town and are in contradiction to its intimate and peaceful interior which features graceful archways, inlaid pebble stone floors and white-washed buildings. Start by visiting the monastery’s five chapels, one of which contains the relics of its founder, St. John. Beautiful frescoes covering the chapel walls depict the story of The Voyages and Miracles of St. John the Theologian. Next, visit the Treasury which is now a museum. Housed within its walls is a breathtaking collection of jeweled chalices, crowns, crucifixes, vestments, and old manuscripts that date back to 1073 and record the monastery’s 900-year history. Perhaps one of the most important or perhaps the most important of the artifacts found here, is the Codex no. 67, also known as The Purple Codex which contains extracts from the Gospel according to St. Mark.

Following your monastery visit, enjoy a bit of free time in town before driving back to the port. Those who wish to stay in town to further explore on their own, shop or grab a bite to eat are welcome to do so but must make their own way back to the ship at their own expense.

Special Note: This tour includes approximately 90 minutes of moderate walking/standing that includes steps and uneven cobblestone surfaces. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests and is not considered suitable for those with walking difficulties. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing; flat walking shoes; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen. Shoulders, legs and midriffs must be covered when entering religious sites. Shorts are not permitted.

Discover ancient Iassos, a hidden Lycian city that thrived for centuries due to its advantageous location.

Leaving from the port in Bodrum it’s a leisurely drive through scenic countryside to this remarkable archaeological site. At one time entirely located on an island, it is now connected to the mainland; however, many of the ruins still remain separated on a small rocky island.

Abundant fishing and a wealth of beautiful marble led to it being one of the earliest inhabited cities in the region, having been founded by Greek colonists coming from Argos in the ninth century BC, and later by immigrants from Miletus. However, Italian archaeologists have uncovered Minoan houses and Mycenaean pottery, indications that the city was actually inhabited well before the arrival of the Greeks.

As you tour the site’s many ruins such as the amphitheater, city gate and imposing pillars, you will probably be most impressed with its monumental mausoleum, a Syrian-style temple tomb. A Roman era Corinthian temple with ten stepped platforms was built over the burial chamber and during excavation, numerous skeletons were discovered in the tomb.

Following your guided tour of Iassos, you will make the drive back to the port in Bodrum.

Special Note: This tour includes approximately 90 minutes of moderate walking/standing that includes steps and uneven surfaces. The drive to Iassos is approximately 7-minutes in each direction. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests and is not considered suitable for those with walking difficulties. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing; flat walking shoes; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen.
BXN303: HISTORICAL BODRUM CASTLE AND THE MAUSOLEUM OF HALICARNASSUS - AUGUST 20, 2021 | $69pp

3.5 HOURS | MEAL: NONE

Step back in time with a visit to historical Bodrum Castle – a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the remains of the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus, Bodrum's oldest antiquity and once one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.

Make the short transfer from the new port to the imposing Bodrum Castle that dominates its surroundings. Built at the beginning of the 15th century, the Knights of Rhodes tore down the magnificent Mausoleum of Halicarnassus tomb in order to obtain enough stones to construct the Castle. In 1522 it fell under the rule of Suleiman I after his conquest of Rhodes and in the ensuing decades it was used as a military base and prison. In 1915 it received extensive damage when it was bombed by a French battleship and was again used as a military base during WWII. Today, it houses the Museum of Underwater Archaeology, one of the most significant of its kind in the world.

Next, visit the Sunken Boat Museum whose artifacts were found underwater and date from the Bronze Age through the Middle Ages. On display here are remnants from a 13th century BC Syrian trade ship and you will also tour the Carian Princess section to view her beautiful gold tiara.

Continue with a walk to the ruins of the once glorious Mausoleum of Halicarnassus. Artemisia II built the tomb in honor of her husband, King Mausolos and the modern generic term for the large tomb is derived from his name. The structure was a towering 150 feet tall and featured frescoes and other priceless artifacts, some of which are on display in the London Museum.

Your tour concludes at this point and you may either return to town to further explore on your own or go directly back to the pier.

Special Note: This tour includes approximately 2.5 hours of moderate walking/standing that includes numerous steps and inclines. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests and is not considered suitable for those with walking difficulties. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing; flat walking shoes; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen. Those who elect to stay in town are responsible for making their own way back to the ship.

BXN304: BODRUM'S ESSENTIAL LANDMARKS AND RELAXING GULET CRUISE - AUGUST 20, 2021 | $269pp

7 HOURS | MEALS: LUNCH

Visit some of Bodrum's most iconic attractions and then relax with a sail around the Bodrum Peninsula in a typical wooden gullet.

Start by driving from the port to the imposing Bodrum Castle that dominates its surroundings. Built at the beginning of the 15th century, the Knights of Rhodes tore down the magnificent Mausoleum of Halicarnassus tomb in order to obtain enough stones to construct the Castle. In 1522 it fell under the rule of Suleiman I after his conquest of Rhodes and in the ensuing decades it was used as a military base and prison. In 1915 it received extensive damage when it was bombed by a French battleship and was again used as a military base during WWII. Today, it houses the Museum of Underwater Archaeology, one of the most significant of its kind in the world.

Next, make your way to the Sunken Boat Museum whose artifacts were found underwater and date from the Bronze Age through the Middle Ages. On display here are remnants from a 13th century BC Syrian trade ship and you will also tour the Carian Princess section to view her beautiful gold tiara.

The afternoon includes a relaxing sail around the magnificent coves of the Bodrum Peninsula. Your wooden gullet is the typical wooden boat of this region that has sailed these waters for centuries. During your sail, you will have the opportunity to swim in some of the pristine bays so be sure to wear your swimsuit under your clothing and bring a towel. Changing cabins will be available for your convenience. Later, a lunch of traditional local specialties will be served on board and alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase.

After a delightful afternoon on the water, return to shore and transfer back to the pier.

Special Note: This tour includes approximately 90 minutes of moderate walking/standing that includes numerous steps and inclines. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests and may not be suitable for those with walking difficulties. Guests must negotiate a narrow ramp to enter and exit the gullet with limited assistance. We recommend wearing a swimsuit under your clothing; flat walking shoes with a non-slip sole; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen. If you wish to swim, please bring a towel from the ship.
Two marvelous experiences await you on this tour, a cruise down the Dalyan River and a visit to the remarkable archaeological site of Kaunos, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

It’s a bit of a drive from the port to Dalyan Village, but the journey is well worth it as you pass through a picturesque landscape of pine forests, plantations of orange groves, and cotton fields. Arriving in this small traditional fishing village, board a motorboat and set-off on a cruise down the Dalyan River Delta, navigating through the river’s winding canals and through a maze of reeds. Much like the drive to Dalyan, interspersed with small islands are cotton plantations that stretch beyond the banks of the river. As you approach Kaunos, view the famous and intriguing temple-tombs of ancient kings that are carved into the rocky cliffs.

When you arrive, debark your boat and walk up the bare hillside with your guide to the ruins of this ancient city that was once a strategic merchant port. During your visit, view the Roman theater, a Roman bath, statues, and numerous buildings in varying stages of decomposition. The Kaunosians were an indigenous population of Anatolia and had their own unique language, rituals, customs and even worshipped their own God, Baselius Kaunios. It is truly a mesmerizing experience to imagine the city as it was and reflect on the past inhabitants and what their daily life must have looked like.

Following your time exploring Kaunos, re-board your boat and travel back to Dalyan where your coach awaits to transfer you back to the port in Marmaris.

Special Note: This tour includes approximately 75 minutes of moderate walking/standing that includes steps, uneven surfaces, and inclines. The drive to Dalyan Village is approximately 90-minutes in each direction and the boat ride is approximately 30 minutes. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests and is not considered suitable for those with walking difficulties. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing; flat walking shoes; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen.

Experience the centuries old tradition of the Turkish Bath (Hamam) and learn how this relaxing form of public bathing was an integral part of the culture of the Ottoman Empire and still remains popular today.

The word “hamam” originates from the Arabic hamma which means heating up, or essentially, a steam bath created by the heating of cold water. In ancient times, these baths served as health centers for the Greeks and were a part of daily life for the Ottomans and now, the Turks.

Drive the short distance from the port to the location of the Turkish Bath where once you’ve arrived, you will gather with your group and receive an explanation of what to expect. After being served a refreshment, head to the changing rooms and then take a short sauna to prepare you for your bath.

The process begins in the “Hot Room” which the Turks call the “Sicaklik”. In this stage you will sit on the marble and pour water over yourself. The heat in here is moderate (not quite as hot as the sauna) and the combination of the warmth and the water will serve to relax you. Once it is determined your skin is soft enough, receive a body scrub done with a “kese” or rough towel. Following this, move to the large marble stone set in the middle of the bath that is called the Navel Stone. As you lie on the stone, your body will be soaped and massaged by the expert hands of the attendants. Once your washing is completed, your bathing experience finishes with a shower, after which you can further unwind while enjoying some tea or a soft drink. Optional oil or terrapin massages are available for an extra charge.

When it’s time to return to the port, you will no doubt come away thinking this was perhaps the most relaxing experience in your life!

Special Note: The time at the baths is approximately 2.5 hours and is mostly seated. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests. The Turkish Bath is unisex, and men and women will use the same areas. Make sure to bring your swimsuit. Towels are provided.
Spend the day relaxing and playing in the crystal-clear waters of the Aegean Sea at İçmeler Bay, located on the southwestern coast of Turkey.

A short drive from the pier brings you to a lovely resort on İçmeler Bay, one of the nicest beaches in the area that has achieved the prestigious Blue Flag status. Arriving at the resort, you will be welcomed and invited to enjoy the private beach facilities here. This unspoiled stretch of beach features the utmost in privacy and natural beauty. Bask in the sun, relax and read or people watch, or take a swim in the inviting waters of the sea. The day is yours to do as you please. Two complimentary soft drinks are provided and there is a restaurant and beach bar where you can purchase food if you like.

After approximately five hours at the beach, you will rejoin your transportation for the drive back to the pier.

Special Note: Walking on this tour is primarily at the guest's discretion. There will be natural and uneven surfaces at the beach. Optional water activities, an internet café and billiards are available at an additional cost and must be paid directly where provided. Don't forget to wear comfortable beach shoes, your bathing suit, a sun hat, sunscreen and bring a beach towel.

Come explore the small coastal village of Akyaka, an architectural gem and one of seventeen Turkish cities awarded Cittaslow status. Later, take a boat ride on the Azmak River and then return to Marmaris for a tour of its historic castle.

Leave the port for the scenic drive to Akyaka. This hidden gem of a village lies in the Azmak River Valley and is surrounded by eucalyptus trees. Best known for its distinctive Ottoman architecture that features octagonal shaped homes that feature intricately carved wooden doors, shutters, balconies, and roofs, it has become a popular holiday spot for locals. The town has also been granted Cittaslow status which in order to become eligible, a town must have a population of under 50,000 and meet several criteria for limited growth and preserving a slow-life culture. Enjoy a guided walking tour of the city and then have some free time to further explore on your own and do some shopping before boarding a boat for a leisurely cruise up the Azmak River.

Following your boat ride, return to Akyaka and then make the drive back to Marmaris. On arrival, take part in a guided tour of Marmaris Castle. Thought to have been constructed around 1044 BC it is one of the city's oldest landmarks. After having passed through the hands of several emperors, the castle now serves as an archaeological monument and houses a museum.

After your tour of the castle, you are free to walk directly back to the port or spend more time in town to stroll about and do some shopping.

Special Note: This tour includes approximately three hours of moderate walking/standing that includes steps and uneven surfaces. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests and is not considered suitable for those with walking difficulties. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing; flat walking shoes; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen.
Don't miss this fantastic and exhilarating opportunity to go rafting on the grade 3 and grade 4 rapids of the Dalaman River.

The Dalaman River, also called the Indos River, runs through southwest Turkey, close to Fethiye. Your day begins with a scenic drive to the village of Narli where your river adventure begins. After a comfort stop, safety briefing and prepping your equipment, board your raft and start the journey.

Your trip down the river covers eight miles, passing through multiple waterfalls and cascading over and around numerous large rock formations. The excitement never ends as you try to anticipate what obstacles you will next encounter as your raft bobs and weaves its way down the river. Along your route you will come across the ancient bridge "Akköprü" which features a charming Greek inscription, "How lucky a man I am, to have built this wonderful bridge over this enchanting river.” No doubt at the end of the day, you will be thinking how lucky you were to discover this amazing experience.

Arriving at Demirli Village, you will exit the river and after a short break, make the return drive back to the pier.

Special Note: This tour includes limited walking. The rafting experience is approximately two hours. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests or those with physical limitations, other health limitations or pregnant women. Participants should be in reasonably good physical condition. We recommend wearing a swimsuit under clothing that can get wet; flat athletic shoes that can get wet; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen. All safety equipment will be provided. Guests will need to sign a waiver before being allowed to take part in the tour.

FETHIYE, TURKEY

FET502: TREKKING LYCIA FETHIYE: THE KAYAKÖY AND ÖLÜDENIZ RUINS - AUGUST 22, 2021 | $399 pp

Trek along a path that starts at the Kayaköy ruins and winds its way to the ruins of Ölüdeniz, enjoying beautiful views over the valley and getting up-close to vestiges of a by-gone era.

Meet your guide at the pier and drive by minivan to Kayaköy, starting point for your hike. The hundreds of ruins here that were built on the site of the ancient civilization of Carmylessus, are nothing less than an outdoor museum. Your route begins at the large high church that is situated in the middle of the ruins. If it’s possible to enter the church, you will find pebbled mosaics decorating the floor and a few reminders of the decorative paintwork that used to cover the entire ceiling. Your footpath winds through the ruins and then leads you on a steady climb through what was once the former homes of the Greek population that once inhabited the area. There are a multitude of nooks and crannies tucked away in the ruins and several paths to follow, but you will want to follow the red and yellow striped directional signs.

Aside from a collection of mesmerizing ruins, Ölüdeniz also offers up stunning views of the Mediterranean and the Blue Lagoon from which Ölüdeniz got its name. Descending to your starting point, re-board your mini-van and head back to the pier, stopping for a comfort break and refreshment en route.

Special Note: This tour includes approximately nearly two hours of moderate to vigorous walking that includes negotiating natural and uneven surfaces and inclines. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests, those with physical limitations or other medical limitations such as heart, respiratory, back or neck problems. Participants should be in good physical condition. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing; flat sport shoes or hiking boots with a closed toe and non-slip sole; a sun cap; sunglasses, sunscreen, and insect repellent. Guests will need to sign a waiver before being allowed to take part in the tour.
Take this opportunity to explore Xanthos-Letoon, one of the most remarkable archaeological sites in Turkey and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Take a picturesque drive to the east side of Fethiye where you will find Xanthos, once the capital city of the Lycian Federation that was its most important city throughout most of Lycian history. Discovered by Charles Fellows in the 19th century, it then became famous to the Western world. The city dates back to the eighth century BC, but it's possible it may even date back further to the Bronze Age or the first centuries of the Iron Age.

Situated on a cliff that overlooks the Koca River, the remains of this city with a tragic past include the Lycian acropolis, the Roman acropolis, Roman theater, and a copy of the Harpy Monument, which is a family sarcophagus situated within a rock. The original of this decorated sarcophagus is in the British Museum in London. Nearby, you will find some other fascinating Lycian sarcophagi that date back from the first and sixth centuries BC. These ornate funerary decorations serve to wonderfully display how the Lycian traditions and the Hellenistic influences blended together in the region.

Next, visit Letoon, the sacred cult center of Lycia which was dedicated to the three national deities of Lycia - Leto and her twin children Apollo and Artemis. While less famous than her off-spring, Leto was also worshipped as a family deity and as the guardian of the tomb. The numerous ruins here still offer up a fascinating insight into the importance Letoon once held in the ancient world.

Following your time in Letoon, travel back to the port in Fethiye.

Special Note: This tour includes approximately two hours of moderate walking/standing that includes steps, uneven surfaces, and inclines. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests and is not considered suitable for those with walking difficulties. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing; flat walking shoes; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen.

Step out of your comfort zone and take to the skies as you float over the incredibly beautiful setting of Ölüdeniz. The views are simply outstanding and the flight nothing less than exhilarating as you experience the unforgettable sensation of motor-less flight while riding the currents of the wind.

Babadjag Mountain which is located approximately 30 minutes from Fethiye, is one of the highest commercial take-off sites in the world for paragliding at 6,500 feet. With a breath-taking panorama and stable weather conditions, it is truly an ideal location for the sport.

Board your minibus at the pier and make the drive to the launch site on the mountain where you will meet your instructor and receive a briefing on safety and what to expect. Once you are harnessed in with your instructor, the two of you will take off and launch into the void of open air. In the blink of an eye, your canopy will be lifted by the wind currents and you will find yourself floating over the landscape below. Exciting 360-degree turns and wingovers add to the fun and if you are lucky, you might catch some thermal flows that could extend your descent. No worries, your pilot is a professional with many years of paragliding experience on the mountain so you can be assured he will give you the safest and most optimal experience with your flight. Dependent upon the prevailing wind currents, your flight will last approximately 30 minutes and your gentle landing on Oludeniz Beach will be just as easy as your take-off was.

Before driving back to the pier, enjoy a comfort stop and refreshment.

Special Note: This tour has limited walking. The drive to the launch point is approximately 30-minutes in each direction. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests, those with physical limitations or other medical limitations such as heart, respiratory, back or neck problems, pregnant women or those who suffer from a fear of heights. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing, flat sport shoes with a non-slip sole and sunscreen. Guests will need to sign a waiver before being allowed to take part in the tour.
**FET301: INCREDIBLE SAKLIKENT NATIONAL PARK AND GORGE EXPLORATION - AUGUST 22, 2021 | $69**

**4.5 HOURS | MEAL: SNACK**

Take a nature break with a visit to Saklikent National Park and its unbelievably beautiful and mystic canyon.

Start with an incredibly scenic drive to Saklikent National Park that winds between quaint villages and majestic mountains. Arriving, you will have 2.5 hours to explore the park’s gorge, the second largest in Europe. The gorge is 11 miles long and nearly 1,000 feet deep and is how melted snow from the Taurus Mountains finds its way to the Xanthos River each spring. As you walk along a trail that at times has you navigating through water (be sure to wear shoes and clothes you won't mind getting wet) and over suspended wooden bridges, you can't help but be awed by the sculpted walls of the canyon that soar high above you and the wondrous natural setting that surrounds you.

Finishing your guided walk, enjoy a rest break that includes refreshments and snacks before driving back to the pier.

Special Note: This tour includes approximately 2.5 hours of moderate physical activity that includes some inclines, natural and uneven surfaces and possibly walking through shallow water. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests or those with physical limitations or other health concerns. Participants should be in reasonably good physical condition. We recommend wearing a swimsuit under weather appropriate comfortable clothing that can get wet; flat walking shoes with a non-slip sole; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen. Shoulders and legs and midriffs must be covered when entering religious sites.

**KEK301: KALEKOY’S MEDIEVAL CASTLE AND THE SURREAL SUNKEN CITY OF SIMENA - AUGUST 23, 2021 | $79**

**4 HOURS | MEAL: NONE**

Visit the key attractions in the region - the village of Kalekoy and the sunken city of Simena and discover for yourself why the Kekova region was declared a Specially Protected Area in 1990.

Start by taking a local boat to Kalekoy, a small yet colorful village that is only accessible by boat. Built on the acropolis of the ancient city of Simena, from the top of its medieval castle you are treated to splendid views of the entire bay. After you have had time to drink in the views and take some photos from this lofty viewpoint, make your way back to your boat and cruise to the sunken city of Simena. Embraced by gorgeous turquoise waters, most areas of the city can still be seen from the boat and some parts are barely submerged. The crystal-clear waters tend to lend a touch of mystery to the ruins that lie beneath the surface. One of the more extraordinary sights is that of a Lycian tomb sitting in the middle of the water, an emblematic image of this ancient sunken city.

Before returning to the port, some free time will be allotted for those who would like to take a swim in the waters here so be sure to wear your swimsuit under your clothes and bring a towel.

Special Note: This tour includes approximately one hour of moderate walking that includes numerous steps, uneven surfaces, and inclines. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests and is not considered suitable for those with walking difficulties. We recommend wearing a swimsuit under weather appropriate comfortable clothing; flat walking shoes with a non-slip sole; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen. If you wish to swim, please bring a towel from the ship.

**KEK302: HISTORICAL ANCIENT MYRA AND ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH - AUGUST 23, 2021 | $85**

**4 HOURS | MEAL: NONE**

Explore the ancient city of Myra, one of the most powerful cities in the region during the time of the Lycian confederation.

Take a tender from the ship and travel to the Cayagzi pier in Demre where your ground transportation awaits to transfer you to Myra. In early Byzantine times, the city surpassed Xanthos to become the capital city of Lycia. However, following years of prosperity, in the 12th century the marshy environment, earthquakes and isolation let to it being abandoned by its inhabitants. The ruins here include the largest amphitheater in the region, large rock tombs built into the cliffsides and several historical monuments.

Continue on to the church of St. Nicholas. Born in Patara, he was the patron saint of children and served as bishop in Myra in the fourth century. Regarded as the third-most important Byzantine structure in Anatolia, it is noteworthy for its outstanding frescos and for being the location of his sarcophagus, although his remains were relocated to Italy.

Following the visit to the church, travel back to the pier in Demre in transfer by tender back to the ship.

Special Note: This tour includes approximately 75 minutes of moderate walking that includes numerous steps, uneven surfaces, and inclines. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests and is not considered suitable for those with walking difficulties. We recommend weather appropriate comfortable clothing; flat walking shoes with a non-slip sole; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen. Shoulders and legs and midriffs must be covered when entering religious sites.

TO BOOK YOUR ATLAS ASHORE LAND EXCURSIONS, CALL OUR VOYAGE SPECIALISTS AT 1.844.44.ATLAS (28527)
**PFO501: 4X4 SAFARI WITH EXHILARATING WATER TREK AND CLIMBING - AUGUST 24, 2021 | $369.00**

- **Activity Level:** Vigorous
- **Duration:** 6.5 Hours | Meals: Brunch

This full day adventure offers up a diverse range of activities designed to introduce you to off-the-beaten-track locations in Cyprus such as an abandoned monastery and ancient mineshafts, along with challenging your spirit of adventure with a 4X4 safari, water trekking and some hands-free climbing.

Start the day by boarding your 4X4 at the pier and then head off with your guide into the wilderness areas of Cyprus. Your first stop at the Panagia tou Sinti abandoned monastery is reached by driving over dirt tracks, a riverbed and small asphalt roads. Situated on the banks of the Xeros River, it is surrounded by a spectacular landscape. Founded in the 16th century, the monastery remained in operation until 1927 and was closed for several decades. Efforts to restore it to its original character using modern restoration techniques earned it the Europa Nostra Award in 1997.

From here, drive to a local kafenio (coffee shop) where you will enjoy a traditional Cretan brunch before heading out for the rest of your adventures which begin with a dramatic drive into the upper Xeros Potamos River Valley. Not only do spectacular viewpoints await you here, so does the starting point for your water trekking, the Roudia Venetian Bridge. Barely known or visited by locals, the bridge used to be part of the main road that traders used to carry the ore found in the surrounding mines to Paphos for exportation. Built during the Venetian era, the bridge was restored in the 1970s.

Your trek into the fresh, cold stream water has you navigating water with varying depths that constantly change, but none higher than chest level. Dependent on the amount of annual rainfall, some spots along the channel may allow for a brief swim. Be aware that you will most likely encounter several forms of fresh water ecology, including snails, freshwater crabs and an occasional wild Rainbow Trout that may just swim between your legs! The area is also home to Cyprus Moufflon (endemic wild sheep) which might also be sighted. This is a pristine, virgin forest area with no modern settlements or human activity nearby, so it is kindly requested that all participants respect the environment and not leave any plastic or non-organic materials behind, including cigarette butts.

Following your water trek, re-board your 4X4 and head to a small canyon comprised of volcanic pillow lava where you will have the rare opportunity to explore Hellenistic – Byzantine period copper mines in what is referred to as “archaeology for thrill-seekers.” While the ancient mineshafts are horizontal, not vertical so you can just walk into them, there will be short amounts of time where you will need to climb over some steep rock surfaces using natural hand and footholds to reach the mine areas. You will no doubt notice that the canyon walls are stained a bright blue-green in places and this is from the oxidized copper salts.

After your mine visits, head back to the port on your 4X4.

*Special Note: This tour includes approximately 3.5 hours of moderate to vigorous physical activity that includes steep inclines, natural and uneven surfaces and navigating through water or possibly swimming. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests or those with physical limitations or other health concerns and may not be suitable for those with a fear of heights. Participants should be in good physical condition. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing; sturdy, flat athletic shoes or hiking boots with a closed toe; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen. All safety equipment will be provided. The minimum age to participate in this tour is 18 years old and guests will need to sign a waiver before being allowed to take part.*

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**PFO502: MOUNTAIN BIKE ADVENTURE IN THE PAPHOS COUNTRYSIDE - AUGUST 24, 2021 | $189.00**

- **Activity Level:** Moderate
- **Duration:** 5 Hours | Meals: None

Explore the lush scenery of the Akamas Peninsula on an exhilarating bike trek through the Paphos countryside.

Board your transportation at the port and then enjoy a picturesque 40-minute drive to Inia, a small village whose name is thought to harken back to a vineyard belonging to the Hospitallers. On arrival, meet your escort and receive your helmet and bike. Then, after a short briefing on safety and what to expect, set-off on your two-wheeled trek.

As you pedal your way on the descent to Lara Beach, enjoy sweeping views of the peninsula as you pass through a forested landscape. Arriving at Lara Beach, stop for approximately 1-hour to relax and perhaps grab a bite to eat or take a dip in the sea.

When break-time concludes, hop back aboard your bike and ride along the coast to the sea caves in Pegia. The sea caves are not only beautiful, but unique in their geology. Formed by the corrosive action of the sea over thousands of years, they are an awesome testament to the power of the sea.

Following your stop at the caves, you will be picked up and driven back to the port where your bike adventure concludes.

*Special Note: This tour includes just over one hour of moderate to vigorous biking and over 90 minutes of walking/standing that includes natural and uneven surfaces. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests, those with physical limitations or other health concerns such as heart, respiratory, back or neck issues or pregnant women. Guests should be in good physical condition. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing suitable for riding a bike; flat, sturdy walking shoes with a closed toe; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen. Those who wish to swim at the beach should wear a bathing suit under their clothes and bring a towel. All equipment will be provided. Guests will need to sign a waiver before being allowed to take part in the tour.*

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**TO BOOK YOUR ATLAS ASHORE LAND EXCURSIONS, CALL OUR VOYAGE SPECIALISTS AT 1.844.44.ATLAS (28527)**
Find yourself exploring sides of Cyprus that aren't your typical tourist attractions yet give you an authentic feel for the character and culture of the country.

Begin with a lovely drive to the Agios Neophytos Monastery which is nestled in a secluded location within the heart of a picturesque valley. One of the best-known in Cyprus, it was founded in the 12th century by its namesake monk. After being jailed for pursuing an ascetic life, he disappeared into the hills where he came across a small cave in 1159. Over time, he transformed the cave into a chapel and his own living space. Named Enkleistra, it became a quiet monastic community in 1170 when Paphos’ Bishop convinced him to take on a student. The number of monks here remained quite small due to Neophytos' strong beliefs against materialism and his desire to remain undisturbed. A pleasant surprise are the incredible Byzantine frescoes found here that date back from the 12th – 15th centuries.

Your final tour stop is in the quaint village of Letymbou for a visit to the traditional House of Sofia. During your visit, view the rooms with their original furniture and décor and then see freshly made bread coming out of the oven. You might also have the opportunity to knead your own bread dough and put it in the traditional oven for baking. There will also be a demonstration of loukoumades and halloumi making followed by a tasting. Afterwards, sit down to a taste-teasing traditional Cyprus breakfast before making the drive back to the port in Paphos.

Special Note: This tour includes approximately three hours of moderate walking/standing that includes numerous steps and uneven surfaces. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests and is not considered suitable for those with walking difficulties. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing; flat walking shoes; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen. Shoulders, legs and midriffs must be covered when entering religious sites.

A truly comprehensive tour of the many facets of Cyprus, you will explore an impressive archaeological site, experience interactive fruit picking, discover local wine making, and tour an authentic village.

Start your day with a scenic drive to the Fasouri area where at a local fruit plantation, you can try your hand at fruit picking. After a tour of the plantation with the owner, they will show you how the fresh fruits are picked and let you give it a try yourself. This organic experience ends with enjoying some of the fresh fruit you've picked along with some freshly squeezed lemon juice.

Next, head north to Troodos Mountain where you will find the Lambouris Winery. For over 300 years, the Lambouris family’s long tradition of winemaking and an unbroken drive for perfection have made the Lambouris Winery a household name for exclusive Cypriot wines. The winery limits production to just 75,000 bottles annually; therefore, the wines are only available on their premises or in selected restaurants and hotels. After touring the winery, be treated to a tasting of some of their finest varieties.

Continuing on, drive to the mountain-ringed village of Omodos. This popular wine town is perfect for a leisurely stroll down its narrow streets with their charming traditional homes and pots of colorful flowers. Your guided walk includes a visit to the Monastery of Holy Cross and a medieval wine press. Afterwards, a tasty Mezze lunch awaits at one of the atmospheric local taverns. Time permitting, browse some local shops in the town's large main square.

Your tour draws to a close with a final stop at Kourion, one of the most impressive archaeological sites in Cyprus. The main feature is a magnificently restored Greco-Roman Theater with seats facing out to the sea that today is once again used for outdoor performances. Another significant site here is the House of Eustolios, a private Roman villa with superb 5th century mosaic tile floors. From this location you can also view the Roman Agora which dates back to the third century and is surrounded by porticos and marble columns.

Following your time in Kourion, drive back to the pier in Paphos.

Special Note: This tour includes approximately 4.5 hours of moderate walking/standing that includes steps and uneven natural surfaces. While many of the sites are only partially accessible, the tour is available to wheelchair guests who have a collapsible wheelchair, are able to make their own way on and off the transportation and have a companion to assist them; however, the tour may not be suitable for those with other walking difficulties. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing; flat walking shoes; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen.
Discover several of Paphos’ marquee attractions that have led to the city being named a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The legacy of Paphos’ remarkable history is such that it is considered nothing less than an open-air museum which led to UNESCO including the entire town as a cultural heritage location.

Begin with a short drive from the pier to the Basilica of Chrysopolitissa and the Pillar of Saint Paul. The Pillar is said to be the location where St. Paul was flogged for preaching Christianity and has become a popular pilgrimage stop. The Basilica was built in the fourth century A.D. and you can still see what remains of several granite and marble Corinthian-styled columns as well as some preserved mosaic tiled pieces of the original floor.

Next, drive to the Tombs of the Kings that dates back to the Hellenistic and early Roman periods. These tombs and underground chambers were carved from rock and were made to resemble the houses of the living. Although the tombs belong to high-ranking officials and aristocracy rather than kings, due to the size and splendor of the tombs, they gained the moniker of Tombs of the Kings.

The final stop is at the House of Dionysos, thought to have been built around the end of the second century AD and later abandoned after the destructive earthquakes of the fourth century AD. The large villa with its central courtyard is perhaps the most impressive archaeological site in Paphos and depicts the life of the wealthiest residents of Paphos during the Roman period. It is also renowned for having what is perhaps the most impressive collection of mosaics in the Mediterranean.

Following your visit, transfer back to the port.

Special Note: This tour includes approximately two hours of moderate walking/standing that includes steps and uneven natural surfaces. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests and may not be suitable for those with walking difficulties. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing; flat walking shoes; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen.

The stunning waters that embrace Cyprus are the perfect location for sea kayaking and appreciating its beautiful natural marine environment.

Leave the port and transfer to the Agios Georgios area where your instructors await with your kayaks and equipment. On arrival, receive instructions on basic paddling technique and a safety briefing and then when you are all ready, set out for the small island of Yeronissos. As you paddle along the island’s coastline, your instructor/guide will share information with you about the island and point-out some of the wild birds and sea life that make these waters their home.

After approximately two hours of paddling, you’ll stop for some free time during which you are invited to take a dip in the ocean. Afterwards, paddle back to Agios Georgios and transfer back to the port.

Special Note: This tour includes limited walking and approximately two hours of moderate to vigorous paddling. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests or those with physical limitations or other health concerns. Participants should be in good physical condition and good swimmers. We recommend wearing a swimsuit under a cover-up; flat rubber-soled shoes that can get wet; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen. All equipment will be provided. Guests will need to sign a waiver before being allowed to take part in the tour.
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MASADA (ASHDOD), ISRAEL

ASH505MS: MAX SHORE / ASH505OVD - THE ULTIMATE ISRAEL AND JORDAN EXPERIENCE -
AUGUST 25, 2021 | COMPLIMENTARY (FOR MAX SHORE) OR $3,589

6 DAYS/ 5 NIGHTS | MEALS: YES

Explore Israel and Jordan like few have the opportunity to do. All of the highlights and more are included in this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Day 1 - Your first day of this incredible journey of discovery begins when you disembark the ship in Ashdod and make the drive to Jerusalem. A full day of exploration around this remarkable city begins with a drive to the Mount of Olives where a wonderful view of Jerusalem unfolds below you. At the foot of the hill is the Garden of Gethsemane with its ancient olive trees and where it is believed Jesus spent his last night.

From here, enter the Old City for a visit to the Western (or Wailing) Wall and views of the Al-Aksa Mosque and Dome of the Rock. Next, make your way to the Pool of Bethesda (where the angel ruffled the waters) and then on to St. Anne’s Church, known as the traditional birthplace of Jesus’ mother Mary.

Mid-day you will pause for lunch at a local restaurant and then resume your tour of the Old City and travel along the Via Dolorosa and on to the Convent of Zion Sisters (formerly the Antonia Fortress), the huge cistern and the Lithostrotos (pavement) considered to be the location where Jesus suffered at the hands of the Roman soldiers and where the trial by Pontius Pilate took place. Onward from here, make your way through the bazaars and on to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre – the site of Jesus’ crucifixion, burial and resurrection.

In the Jewish Quarter you will see the Cardo, the Roman street that served as the hub of the city, and then leave the Old City at Mt. Zion to visit St. Peter in Gallicantu, which was built over the palace of the High Priest Caiaphas and where Peter denied Christ. Your first day of touring comes to a close with a transfer to your Jerusalem hotel where you will have dinner and overnight.

Day 2 - Begin with breakfast in the hotel and then head out and travel along the Dead Sea to Masada. Arriving, take the cable car up to the top of this sandstone mountain that was the last stronghold of the Zealots. Some 2,000 years ago, Roman legions stormed one of the two paths to the top to reach the Jewish Zealots headquartered there. The brave Israelite soldiers held out for three years against the invading Roman army before taking their own lives to avoid capture and enslavement. Many of the fortifications here that were originally built by King Herod, still stand.

After visiting Masada, stop at the Qumran Caves, located on the Dead Sea's northern shore, and the place where the Dead Sea scrolls were found. Now a national park, the caves were used for storage purposes by the Essenes, a mystical sect that produced the Dead Sea Scrolls. In 1947, a young Bedouin shepherd discovered manuscript fragments in the caves that were hidden for centuries in airtight jars. The fragments from the Books of Exodus, Isaiah and Psalms are now on exhibit in the Israel Museum in Jerusalem. Travel back to Jerusalem in the afternoon for your final dinner and overnight there.

Day 3 - Following breakfast in the hotel, drive to the Allenby Bridge (known as the King Hussein Bridge on the Jordan side) and cross into Jordan. Following your crossing, a Jordanian English-speaking guide will join you and you will head to Mount Nebo. Mount Nebo is the mountain mentioned in the bible where Moses was granted a view of the Holy Land but was not allowed to enter it. Nowadays the mountain is a memorial site where the “Church of Moses” stands. Ever since the first days of Christianity this mountain has been a holy place and a destination for pilgrimage. The location offers a magnificent view over Jordan, the Dead Sea and Israel. When the weather is clear, you may even be able to see Jerusalem, which is about 37 miles away.

Leaving Mount Nebo, continue on to nearby Madaba, known as the City of Mosaics. Perched on an archaeological site with more than 4,000 years of history buried beneath it. The quantity and quality of the mosaic flooring found here has made Madaba one of the most prominent cities in the world for mosaics. St. George’s Church here houses a world-famous mosaic floor containing a large mosaic map of Palestine, which also features a detailed map of Jerusalem as it was during the sixth century. At the Church of the Apostles, found at the southern entrance of the city, there is a mosaic floor attributed to the craftsman Salamandros. The mosaic depicts the sea, with the central figure of a woman encircled with a selection of creatures, vegetation, and an inscription.

Haret Jdoudna represents an authentic village in the city of Madaba, offering everything from amazing traditional food, to entertainment, to local crafts, mosaics and souvenirs. Enjoy lunch here at the Haret Jdoudna Restaurant, housed in a 19th century house that has retained its original features and floors. The excellent menu offers local mezza dishes, oven-baked delicacies and traditional home-made meals. Following lunch, travel to the Seven Wonders Luxury Camp in Petra for check-in and dinner. The balance of the evening is at your leisure. Enjoy stargazing by the fire with your fellow travelers before retiring for the night to your well-appointed tent.

Day 4 - After breakfast at the camp check-out and transfer to the Petra Visitors’ Center where your tour of Petra, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1985, will commence. Petra has also been included as one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. You may begin the visit with an optional horse ride from the main gate of Petra to the entrance of the old city. From there, walk on foot along to the Siq (entrance). The ancient city of Petra was built between 800 BC and AD 105 by Nabatean Arabs. In this era Petra was a fortress, carved out of the jagged rocks in an area which was virtually inaccessible. In the first and second century, after the Romans invaded, the city had reached the peak of its fame.

Petra covers an area of about 62 miles, and over 800 monuments can be found here. When shipping slowly displaced caravan routes, the city’s importance gradually dwindled and it fell into disuse and was lost to the world until 1812, when it was re-discovered by the Swiss explorer Johann Ludwig Burckhart. Nowadays, Petra is a popular tourist attraction, known as the “rose-red city half as old as time”. The Khazneh (the Treasury), was featured in the Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade film. Lunch will be served at the Basin Restaurant which is found amid the ruins of Petra. Here, nestled within the splendor of Petra’s monuments, enjoy a chance to rest and have lunch before continuing your afternoon of touring.

ACTIVITY LEVEL: MILD
ACTIVITY LEVEL: MODERATE
ACTIVITY LEVEL: VIGOROUS

TO BOOK YOUR ATLAS ASHORE LAND EXCURSIONS, CALL OUR VOYAGE SPECIALISTS AT 1.844.44.ATLAS (28527)
Experience some of the world’s most incredible scenery and historical finds as you journey first to Masada, a mountain fort that is now a national Jewish shrine, and then follow-up with visits to the Dead Sea, Jerusalem, and Bethlehem to see some of the most spectacular archaeological sites in the world.

Day 1 - Start off from the port and commence a three-hour drive into the Negev Desert to the mountain fortress of Masada, which looms high above the Dead Sea’s desolate landscape. It has often been described as the most spectacular archaeological site in Israel and is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is here that King Herod built a luxurious refuge complete with magnificent palaces, swimming pools and excavated rock cisterns to provide water supplies. Around AD 73, after a three-year long Roman siege, more than 950 Jews took their own lives at Masada rather than face the brutal Romans and a future of slavery. On arrival, a cable car will convey you to the summit where you can explore the remains of Masada and among the fascinating sights you can see are the wall, bathhouses, the upper palace, synagogue, western palace, and the Roman ramp and siege camp.

After your visit, descend back down the mountain and drive to Ein Bokek where you will have lunch at a hotel on the shores of the Dead Sea. After lunch, you can take a swim in these waters that are so mineral-rich you can’t sink. Following your Dead Sea experience, drive north past Jericho and Qumran. At Qumran, stop for photos of the caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in 1947. Continue on to Jerusalem where you will check-in to your hotel for the night.

Day 2 - Get off to an early start with breakfast in the hotel, followed by a drive to the Mount of Olives where you are afforded a magnificent view over the Golden City. Walk the sacred paths of the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus spent the last moments before his arrest, visit the beautiful church here and marvel at the grove of olive trees which are the oldest that remain in Jerusalem.

From here, make the short drive to Mt. Zion and visit the room of The Last Supper. Next, enter the Old City on foot via the Zion Gate, walking through the Jewish Quarter and the Roman Cardo to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher which sits on the site of Christ’s resurrection. The original vast sanctuary that was built here by Emperor Constantine was destroyed centuries later, but a replacement was eventually rebuilt by the Crusaders. In the church you will be able to see the last five Stations of the Cross. Your walk then continues through the colorful bazaar to the Jaffa Gate.

At this point, pause for lunch at a local restaurant before driving to Bethlehem where you will visit the Church of the Nativity. Built above the place that Christ is said to have been born, the actual Cave of the Nativity is a small crypt with a vaulted masonry roof. Poor Bethlehem families used the rocky hollows of the region as stables or dwellings, so the tradition that places the Nativity in a cave is not at odds with the story of the manger. Before heading back to rejoin the ship in Ashdod, there will be an opportunity to shop for souvenirs.

Special Note: This tour includes a mixture of moderate to vigorous physical activity over a period of several days that includes significant walking, inclines, steps, natural and uneven surfaces in hot climates. Some of the activities may not be suitable for wheelchair guests, those with physical limitations or other health concerns. Guests should be in good physical condition. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing; flat, sturdy walking shoes with a closed toe; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen.
ACTIVITY LEVEL: MODERATE

ACTIVITY LEVEL: MILD

ACTIVITY LEVEL: MODERATE

ACTIVITY LEVEL: VIGOROUS

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Day 1

Travelers will meet in the lobby of the hotel at 4:00 a.m. and make the 30-minute drive to Masada. While there is a cable car that operates during daylight hours, today you will make the trek to the summit via the Snake Trail. The hike up usually takes about 75 minutes and will be well worth the effort when you reach the top and are rewarded with watching the sun rise majestically over the desert. Masada has often been described as the most spectacular archaeological site in Israel and is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is here that King Herod built a luxurious refuge complete with magnificent palaces, swimming pools and excavated rock cisterns to provide water supplies. Around AD 73, after a three-year long Roman siege, more than 950 Jews took their own lives at Masada rather than face the brutal Romans and a future of slavery. During your visit, some of the fascinating sights you can see are the wall, bathhouses, the upper palace, synagouge, western palace, and the Roman ramp and siege camp. When your visit draws to a close, take the cable car down to the desert floor and then return to the hotel for breakfast and some free time before checking out and driving back to the ship.

Special Note: This tour includes two days of significant moderate to vigorous walking that can include inclines, steps, natural and uneven cobblestone surfaces. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests, or those with physical limitations or other health concerns such as heart, respiratory, back or neck issues or pregnant women. Guests should be in good physical condition. We recommend wearing weather appropriate modest attire (knees, shoulders and midriffs must be covered); flat, sturdy walking shoes with a closed toe (aqua shoes are recommended for the Dead Sea as well as wearing an old bathing suit as the water there can cause discoloration); a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen.

Day 2

Meet in the lobby of the hotel at 4:00 a.m. and make the 30-minute drive to Masada. While there is a cable car that operates during daylight hours, today you will make the trek to the summit via the Snake Trail. The hike up usually takes about 75 minutes and will be well worth the effort when you reach the top and are rewarded with watching the sun rise majestically over the desert. Masada has often been described as the most spectacular archaeological site in Israel and is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is here that King Herod built a luxurious refuge complete with magnificent palaces, swimming pools and excavated rock cisterns to provide water supplies. Around AD 73, after a three-year long Roman siege, more than 950 Jews took their own lives at Masada rather than face the brutal Romans and a future of slavery. During your visit, some of the fascinating sights you can see are the wall, bathhouses, the upper palace, synagouge, western palace, and the Roman ramp and siege camp. When your visit draws to a close, take the cable car down to the desert floor and then return to the hotel for breakfast and some free time before checking out and driving back to the ship.

Special Note: This tour includes 2-days of significant moderate to vigorous walking, hiking and climbing that includes steep inclines, steps, natural and uneven cobblestone surfaces. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests, or those with physical limitations or other health concerns such as heart, respiratory, back or neck issues or pregnant women. Guests should be in good physical condition. We recommend wearing weather appropriate modest attire (knees, shoulders and midriffs must be covered); flat, sturdy walking shoes with a closed toe (aqua shoes are recommended for the Dead Sea as well as wearing an old bathing suit as the water there can cause discoloration); a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen.

Day 3

Travel to Jordan and explore the iconic sites of Petra and Wadi Rum, highlighted with an overnight glamping experiences under the stars in Petra and Wadi Rum.

Day 1 – Debark the ship and drive to Petra, described as the most spectacular archaeological site in Israel and recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is here that King Herod built a luxurious refuge complete with magnificent palaces, swimming pools and excavated rock cisterns to provide water supplies. Around AD 73, after a three-year long Roman siege, more than 950 Jews took their own lives at Masada rather than face the brutal Romans and a future of slavery. During your visit, some of the fascinating sights you can see are the wall, bathhouses, the upper palace, synagouge, western palace, and the Roman ramp and siege camp. When your visit draws to a close, take the cable car down to the desert floor and then drive to the shores of the Dead Sea – the lowest place on the surface of the earth, where you will be treated to a buffet lunch at one of the area’s nicest hotels. Following lunch, there will be an opportunity to take an “unsinkable” swim in the extremely salty, mineral rich water of the Dead Sea. In the late afternoon, you will re-board your coach and drive south to the Arava Border Crossing where you will pass security and enter into Jordan. From here, travel to the Seven Wonders Luxury Camp in Petra for check-in and dinner. Afterwards, relax by the fireside under a canopy of desert stars as you share stories with your fellow travelers and then retire for the evening to your well-appointed luxury tent.

Day 2 – Following breakfast at the camp, make the drive to Petra. On arrival, take part in a guided tour of this ancient marvel. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is often referred to as the Rose Red city due to the hue of the rocks here and was once the capital for the Nabataean Arabs. The city thrived until a major earthquake in 363 AD and that, coupled with changing trade routes, led to its eventual downfall and abandonment. While here, view the iconic Treasury and enjoy lunch at the Basin Restaurant located within the site.

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ASH501OVD: (DOUBLE) EIN GEDI NATURE PARK AND MASADA MORNING SNAKE TRAIL CLIMB -
AUGUST 25, 2021 | $999

2 DAYS / 1 NIGHT | MEALS: YES

Nature and history come together on this tour to create a perfect blend of activities that showcases some of the many facets of Israel. Spend time in Ein Gedi’s natural wonderland and then climb to the top of a historical mountain fortress steeped in history, to catch an unforgettable desert sunrise.

Setting out from Ashdod Port, it’s a 2.5-hour drive to the Ein Gedi nature reserve, the largest oasis in Israel. This natural setting boasts springs, waterfalls, and plenty of wildlife, such as wild goats and rock rabbits. On arrival, you’ll set out on a 90-minute walking tour that will take you to the David Stream and waterfall. The stream is one of the most beautiful in Israel and features a series of waterfalls. It was named after David, who when fleeing King Saul, came here and hid in the stream. Today, it is a popular location for locals and visitors alike.

Following your nature walk, re-board your coach and drive to the Dead Sea where you will enjoy lunch at a local hotel and afterwards, check-in to your room and then have free time to just relax, visit the spa, take a dip in the hotel’s pool or swim in the Dead Sea. The evening is at your leisure and we suggest making it an early night as Day 2’s adventure starts pre-dawn!

Day 2 – Meet in the lobby of the hotel at 4:00 a.m. and make the 30-minute drive to Masada. While there is a cable car that operates during daylight hours, today you will make the trek to the summit via the Snake Trail. The hike up usually takes about 75 minutes and will be well worth the effort when you reach the top and are rewarded with watching the sun rise majestically over the desert. Masada has often been described as the most spectacular archaeological site in Israel and is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is here that King Herod built a luxurious refuge complete with magnificent palaces, swimming pools and excavated rock cisterns to provide water supplies. Around AD 73, after a three-year long Roman siege, more than 950 Jews took their own lives at Masada rather than face the brutal Romans and a future of slavery. During your visit, some of the fascinating sights you can see are the wall, bathhouses, the upper palace, synagouge, western palace, and the Roman ramp and siege camp. When your visit draws to a close, take the cable car down to the desert floor and then return to the hotel for breakfast and some free time before checking out and driving back to the ship.

Special Note: This tour includes 2-days of significant moderate to vigorous walking, hiking and climbing that includes steep inclines, steps, natural and uneven cobblestone surfaces. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests, or those with physical limitations or other health concerns such as heart, respiratory, back or neck issues or pregnant women. Guests should be in good physical condition. We recommend wearing weather appropriate modest attire (knees, shoulders and midriffs must be covered); flat, sturdy athletic shoes or hiking boots with a closed toe (aqua shoes are recommended for the Dead Sea as well as wearing an old bathing suit as the water there can cause discoloration); a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen.

ASH502OVD: JOURNEY TO JORDAN - ICONIC RUINS OF PETRA AND WADI RUM AND OVERNIGHT GLAMPING ADVENTURE -
AUGUST 25, 2021 | $1,499

3 DAYS / 2 NIGHTS | MEALS: YES

Travel to Jordan and explore the iconic sites of Petra and Wadi Rum, highlighted with an overnight glamping experiences under the stars in Petra and Wadi Rum.

Day 1 – Debark the ship and drive to Masada, described as the most spectacular archaeological site in Israel and recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is here that King Herod built a luxurious refuge complete with magnificent palaces, swimming pools and excavated rock cisterns to provide water supplies. Around AD 73, after a three-year long Roman siege, more than 950 Jews took their own lives at Masada rather than face the brutal Romans and a future of slavery. During your visit, some of the fascinating sights you can see are the wall, bathhouses, the upper palace, synagouge, western palace, and the Roman ramp and siege camp. When your visit draws to a close, take the cable car down to the desert floor and then drive to the shores of the Dead Sea – the lowest place on the surface of the earth, where you will be treated to a buffet lunch at one of the area’s nicest hotels. Following lunch, there will be an opportunity to take an ‘unsinkable’ swim in the extremely salty, mineral rich water of the Dead Sea. In the late afternoon, you will re-board your coach and drive south to the Arava Border Crossing where you will pass security and enter into Jordan. From here, travel to the Seven Wonders Luxury Camp in Petra for check-in and dinner. Afterwards, relax by the fireside under a canopy of desert stars as you share stories with your fellow travelers and then retire for the evening to your well-appointed luxury tent.

Day 2 – Following breakfast at the camp, make the drive to Petra. On arrival, take part in a guided tour of this ancient marvel. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is often referred to as the Rose Red city due to the hue of the rocks here and was once the capital for the Nabataean Arabs. The city thrived until a major earthquake in 363 AD and that, coupled with changing trade routes, led to its eventual downfall and abandonment. While here, view the iconic Treasury and enjoy lunch at the Basin Restaurant located within the site.

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In the late afternoon, you will transfer to your Wadi Rum Luxury Camp (Aicha Memories Camp or similar) for check-in and have the remainder of the afternoon to relax before dinner. Enjoy another peaceful evening under the desert stars before retiring for the evening.

Day 3 – Your day starts with an early breakfast at the camp and after check-out, make the drive to Wadi Rum. The landscape here is nothing short of striking, with towering sandstone cliffs and miles of sweeping red sand dunes which have let to it being tagged for being similar to the landscape on Mars. Within the site stone age petroglyphs have been uncovered and offer up a glimpse into the area's earliest beginnings. Nomadic Bedouin tribes still make their home here and it continues as a main stopping point on a migratory path through the desert. After touring the site and having lunch, you will transfer from Wadi Rum to Arava border crossing where you will be processed and proceed into Israel, driving directly to Haifa port to rejoin the ship.

Special Note: This tour includes a significant amount of moderate to vigorous walking that includes steps, stairs, slopes, and uneven natural surfaces to negotiate. Participants should be in good physical condition. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing; flat walking shoes with a non-slip sole; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen. Those who wish to swim in the Dead Sea should bring a swimsuit and towel. There are limited restroom stops on the drive between the two countries.
After a day steeped in history, transfer back to the pier in Ashdod.

Continue from here to the Dead Sea where you will be treated to lunch at hotel that overlooks this remarkable body of water. After lunch, those who wish may take the cable car to the summit for a walk around the site of this famous and historical last stand. Among the fascinating sights are the cisterns to supply water. Around AD 73, after a three-year-long Roman siege, more than 950 Jews took their own lives at Masada rather than face a future of slavery.

When you arrive, a cable car will convey you to the summit for a walk around the site of this famous and historical last stand. Among the fascinating sights are the cisterns to supply water. Around AD 73, after a three-year-long Roman siege, more than 950 Jews took their own lives at Masada rather than face a future of slavery.

Rejoining your coach, pass the Knesset, Israel's Parliament while driving to a local restaurant for lunch. Afterwards, drive up Mt. Scopus for a marvelous panoramic view of the Old City and the Temple Mount. Then, continue on to Mt. Zion, where you commence your walking tour. Starting at Zion Gate, make your way through the Jewish Quarter, which was renovated after the 1967 war. Visit the second-century Roman Cardo and walk down the hill to the Western (Wailing) Wall where you can touch the Herodian Stones that were once part of the Second Temple. Your enriching tour of Jerusalem then concludes, and your coach will transfer you back to Ashdod and your awaiting ship.

Special Note: This tour includes approximately five hours of moderate walking that includes steps, stairs, and uneven natural surfaces to negotiate. Time spent on coach is approximately 4 hours. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests and is not suitable for those with other walking difficulties. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing; flat walking shoes with a non-slip sole; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen. Knees, shoulders and midriffs must be covered. There is no restroom stop on the approximately 90-minute drive between Ashdod and Jerusalem.

Experience some of the world’s most incredible scenery and historical finds as you journey first to the Dead Sea and then on to Masada, a mountain fort that is now a national Jewish shrine, and world famous for its recognition by UNESCO for its unique structure and history. From the lofty heights of Masada to the lowest point on earth at the Dead Sea, this tour truly takes you to the heart of Israel.

Leave Ashdod port and make the 2.5-hour drive to the Masada Fortress via Qumran, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. The landscape is both desolate and mesmerizing as you descend through the Judean desert into the valley of the Dead Sea. Towering high above this is the legendary Masada. In King Herod’s day, it was a luxury refuge complete with magnificent palaces and excavated rock cisterns to supply water. Around AD 73, after a three-year-long Roman siege, more than 950 Jews took their own lives at Masada rather than face a future of slavery.

When you arrive, a cable car will convey you to the summit for a walk around the site of this famous and historical last stand. Among the fascinating sights are the wall, northern palace, synagogue, western palace, Roman ramp, and siege camps. After spending nearly two hours here, return via cable car to the floor of the valley where you will have some time for photos.

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Continue from here to the Dead Sea where you will be treated to lunch at hotel that overlooks this remarkable body of water. After lunch, those who wish may choose to take a swim in the mineral-rich waters that are so salty you cannot sink!

After a day steeped in history, transfer back to the pier in Ashdod.
Special Note: This tour includes approximately three hours of moderate walking/standing on primarily flat surfaces. Time spent aboard the coach is approximately 6.5 hours. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests and may not be suitable for those with other walking difficulties. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing, flat walking shoes with a non-slip sole; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen. If you plan to take a dip in the Dead Sea, bring an old swimsuit as the water can cause discoloration. Towels and lockers are provided at the hotel. In the event of flash floods in the Judean Desert the tour will not pass by Qumran.

**ASH309 ESSENTIAL ISRAEL: BETHLEHEM, VIEW OF JERUSALEM AND THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE** - AUGUST 26, 2021 | $145

**9.5 HOURS | MEAL: LUNCH**

Discover the ancient beauty of Jerusalem and Bethlehem while visiting some of history's most sacred sites during this scenic, full-day sightseeing tour of Israel's capital city and Bethlehem - birthplace of Jesus.

Israel radiates history, both secular and religious to the extent that familiar names will catch your attention all the way from Ashdod to Jerusalem. Arriving in Jerusalem enjoy a panoramic drive through the capital, passing the Knesset (Israel's parliament), the Supreme Court and the Shrine of the Book.

Continue to the Mount of Olives for a magnificent view over the Golden City and then drive to the Valley of Kidron where you will follow in the footsteps of Jesus as you walk through the Garden of Gethsemane. It was in this garden of olive trees that Jesus spent the last moments before his arrest and early Christians were already holding gatherings here before the first church was built around AD 380. While here, visit the Church of All Nations and see some of the oldest olive trees in Jerusalem.

Re-board your coach and head to a local venue for a hearty lunch, followed by a drive to Bethlehem. Here, in the city of Jesus' birth, visit the Church of Nativity, built above the place where Christ is said to have been born. The actual cave of the Nativity is a small crypt with a vaulted masonry roof. Poor Bethlehem families used the rocky hollows of the region as stables or dwellings, so the tradition that places the Nativity in a cave is not at odds with the story of the manger.

After visiting the church, there's an opportunity to shop for souvenirs at a local shop. On the way back to Jerusalem, a stop for photos is made at the Sherover Promenade which affords a wonderful panoramic view of the city and the Temple Mount. From here, it's a direct transfer back to the ship in Ashdod.

Special Note: This tour includes approximately four hours of moderate walking/standing that includes some steps, stairs and inclines to negotiate. Time spent driving on the coach is approximately 4 hours. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests and is not considered suitable for those with other walking difficulties. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing; flat walking shoes; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen. Shoulders, legs and midriffs must be covered when entering religious sites. All shopping is optional and at the guest's discretion. There is no restroom stop on the approximately 90-minute drive between Ashdod and Jerusalem. All visitors to Bethlehem must have their passport with them. This tour does not visit the Old City of Jerusalem or the Wailing Wall.

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**ASH304: EASY JERUSALEM PANORAMA** - AUGUST 26, 2021 | $239PP

**8.5 HOURS | MEAL: LUNCH**

Israel’s capital city comes alive on this mostly panoramic tour that showcases some of its most historical and sacred sites without the need for extensive walking.

Travel from the port in Ashdod via the Judean Mountains to the top of Mount Scopus which affords an amazing panoramic view of the city. Then walk through the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus spent his last moments before his arrest. Early Christians were already holding gatherings here before the first church was built around AD 380. Visit the beautiful church and see some of the oldest olive trees remaining in Jerusalem.

Next, drive to a local restaurant for a relaxing lunch before commencing your afternoon of touring. Re-boarding your coach, drive around the old city walls and then enter Jerusalem via the Dung Gate. Stop here for a quick view of the Western (Wailing) Wall, the last vestige of the ramparts that surrounded the holy temple of the Jews that was built by King Solomon. From here, enjoy a narrated panoramic tour past many of the city’s famous landmarks that include the Knesset (Israel’s Parliament), the Shrine of the Book and the Supreme Court.

When your driving tour concludes, you will make the transfer back to the port in Ashdod.

Special Note: While this tour is substantially less vigorous than other Jerusalem tours, it still includes approximately 2.5 hours of mild to moderate walking/standing over mostly flat surfaces. Time spent aboard the coach is approximately five hours. The tour is available to wheelchair guests who have a collapsible wheelchair, are able to make their own way on and off the coach and have a companion to assist them. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing; flat walking shoes with a non-slip sole; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen. Knees, shoulders and midriffs must be covered. There is no restroom stop on the approximately 90-minute drive between Ashdod and Jerusalem and the tour does not actually visit the Wailing Wall or the Old City of Jerusalem.

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**ASH305: A STUDY IN CONTRASTS – WALKING ANCIENT JAFFA AND PANORAMIC MODERN TEL AVIV** - AUGUST 26, 2021 | $99PP

**6 HOURS | MEAL: NONE**

Discover the beauty of historic ancient Jaffa and the vibrant city of Tel Aviv which is a fusion of modern city and iconic sacred sites.

Drive 90 minutes from the pier in Ashdod to Old Jaffa where your walking tour commences. Once the only entry port into Israel, today it is a microcosm encircled by the city of Tel Aviv, yet it still retains its colorful character and due to a restoration project in the 1960s, is very well preserved.

With your guide, travel on foot amongst old stone buildings and arches, and narrow, winding cobblestone alleys filled with artists’ galleries. You can even view Andromeda’s Rock in the distance. This is where the prophet Jonah boarded the ship for Tarshish, St. Peter stayed in the house of Simon the Tanner, and Andromeda, the daughter of Jaffa’s king, was tied to a rock, awaiting the sea monster. Next, visit the new Jaffa Tales Visitor Center to learn about archaeological finds through a virtual performance that brings past heroes to life.

Continuing on, re-board your coach and sit back and relax during a narrated panoramic driving tour of modern Tel Aviv. Rothschild Boulevard is known for its 1930s Bauhaus buildings and the extraordinary balconies that lend Tel Aviv its ‘White City’ nickname and earned its status as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Upon reaching the Tel Aviv Sea Promenade and the lively port area, step off your coach for a bit and join the crowds strolling among the many trendy cafés and restaurants, absorbing the city’s lively atmosphere all around you before it’s time to drive back to the port in Ashdod.

Special Note: This tour includes approximately two hours of moderate walking/standing that includes steps, stairs, uneven and gravel surfaces to negotiate. Time spent aboard the coach is approximately 2 ½ hours. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests or those with other walking difficulties. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing; flat walking shoes with a non-slip sole; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen.
For rafting enthusiasts, or just those looking to experience the more unusual when in Israel, this experience is sure to deliver.

The mountainous Jordan River is one of the most beautiful and fascinating places in Israel. Your rafting adventure will navigate down 7.5 miles of the Jordan River that falls more than 600 feet to its origin in the valley of the Sea of Galilee.

From the port in Haifa, drive inland to the Jordan River where you will get to experience the pleasure of rafting over small cascades, through narrow passages and over short drops, all making for a terrific rafting experience. After receiving your safety briefing and equipment, take off in your raft and let the fun begin!

In addition to the rafting, the Jordan River also offers a scenic natural landscape of picturesque rocky canyons, colorful flowers, birds, and wildlife, all combining to make your day on the river even more perfect.

When you reach the end of your rafting path route, disembark the raft and have a quick lunch before joining your transportation for the drive back to Haifa.

Special note: This tour has limited walking. The rafting may include bouncing and jarring. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests, those with limited mobility or other health restrictions which may include heart, back or neck issues or pregnancy. Guests should be in reasonably good physical condition, be able to swim and have some flexibility. Those who suffer from motion sickness should take the necessary precautions. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing; flat walking shoes; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen.
Next, drive through Cana en route to lunch in Tiberias. Cana is best known for being the location where Jesus performed his first miracle of turning water into wine at a wedding. Arriving in Tiberias, enjoy a lovely lunch at a restaurant that overlooks the Sea of Galilee before continuing on to Tabgha. In Tabgha, visit the church of Peter's Primacy by the lake before driving on to Capernaum where you will see the ancient synagogue where Jesus taught and St. Peter's house. From here, drive to the Mount of Beatitudes where Jesus gave his Sermon on the Mount.

The last of your stops will be at the Yardenit baptismal site on the Jordan River. The site is visited each year by thousands of Christian pilgrims. An opportunity exists here to shop for souvenirs.

Your exploration of the Galilee region draws to a close as you re-board your coach for the drive back to Haifa.

Special Note: This tour includes approximately five hours of moderate walking/standing that includes numerous steps and uneven surfaces. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests and is not considered suitable for those with walking difficulties. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing; flat walking shoes; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen. Shoulders, legs and midriffs must be covered when entering religious sites. Any shopping is optional and at the guest’s discretion.

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Before driving back to Haifa, there will be a final stop to do some shopping in the Bazaar.

Special Note: This tour includes approximately two hours of moderate walking/standing that includes numerous steps, uneven surfaces, and small narrow tunnels to negotiate. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests and is not considered suitable for those with walking difficulties, those who cannot bend and walk at the same time, or those who suffer from claustrophobia. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing; flat walking shoes; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen. Shoulders, legs, and midriffs must be covered when entering religious sites. All shopping is optional and at the guest’s discretion.

HFA308: EXPLORING NAZARETH AND CANAAN - AUGUST 27, 2021 | $79

5 HOURS | MEALS: NONE

Guests with a general interest in theology and world history will be fascinated by this excursion that encompasses two very special places related to the life of Jesus Christ.

It’s a one-hour drive from the port in Haifa to Nazareth, the largest city in the North District of Israel and the childhood home of Jesus, according to the New Testament. While here, take the opportunity to visit the surprisingly modern “Basilica of the Annunciation,” a church built on the site where Gabriel announced the news of Jesus’ birth to the Virgin Mary. You can also view the underground grotto where Mary received the Annunciation. Other attractions here include Mary’s Well and the Church of Joseph which was allegedly built over the site of Joseph’s carpentry shop.

Continuing on, the second half of your tour will take you to Canaan, an Arab city in the region of Galilee. Situated at the crossroads of several cultures, its history reflects this in both art and language. Perhaps more famously known in today’s world as the place where Jesus "turned water into wine" during the famous Canaan Wedding as depicted in the Bible. Following your visit here, transfer back to the port in Haifa.

Special Note: This tour includes a significant amount of moderate to walking that covers approximately one mile and includes steps, natural and uneven surfaces. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests and may not be suitable for those with other mobility issues. Conservative attire is recommended for entering places of religious significance and additionally, we suggest a sun cap; sunglasses; sunscreen; and flat, walking shoes with a closed toe. Head coverings are required. It is further suggested that guests bring a bottle of water from the ship.

HFA309: THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE OF MEGGIDO AND BEIT SHERIM NATIONAL PARK - AUGUST 27, 2021 | $85

5.5 HOURS | MEAL: NONE

Visit several of the most important archaeological sites in Israel and walk among the excavations, viewing the remains of several civilizations, including those of the Romans, Egyptians, Canaanites, Israelites, and Assyrians.

Travel from the pier to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Megiddo, at one time a strategic stronghold on the trade route between Egypt and Assyria. It is also the location where St. John predicted Armageddon – the last great battle on earth would take place. While here you can see the ivory palace where the world's richest Canaanite treasure was discovered. Other points of interest include stables from King Ahab's time and a fascinating system of waterworks that leads to several springs.

Next, make your way to Beit She‘arim National Park, where the remains of this ancient Jewish city and underground Jewish cemetery are revealed. The necropolis here contains large stone coffins decorated with Jewish symbols and inscribed in Hebrew, Aramaic, Palmyran and Greek, shedding light on what life was like during this time in history. After a fascinating visit here, you’ll re-board your coach and travel back to the pier in Haifa.

Special Note: This tour includes a significant amount of moderate to vigorous walking that includes steps, natural and uneven surfaces. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests and may not be suitable for those with other mobility issues. Conservative attire is recommended for entering places of religious significance and additionally, we suggest a sun cap; sunglasses; sunscreen; and flat, walking shoes with a closed toe. Head coverings may be required. It is further suggested that guests bring a bottle of water from the ship.

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**HFA310: THE BEST OF JERUSALEM AND THE HISTORIC OLD CITY - AUGUST 27, 2021 | $185pp**

**11 HOURS | MEALS: LUNCH**

Discover the ancient beauty of Jerusalem and Bethlehem while visiting some of history's most sacred sites during this scenic, full-day sightseeing tour of Israel's capital city.

Israel radiates history, both secular and religious to the extent that familiar names will catch your attention all the way from Haifa to Jerusalem. Arriving in Jerusalem, you will first make your way to the top of Mount Scopus which affords an amazing panoramic view of the city, then walk through the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus spent the last moments before his arrest. Early Christians were already holding gatherings here before the first church was built around AD 380. Visit the beautiful church and see some of the oldest olive trees remaining in Jerusalem.

Next, make your way to a local venue for lunch before making the short drive to Mt. Zion. Visit the Room of the Last Supper and then walk by King David's Tomb before entering the Old City via the Zion Gate. Your walking tour here takes you through the Jewish Quarter and the Roman Cardo to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher on the site of Christ's resurrection. The original vast sanctuary built here by Emperor Constantine was destroyed centuries later, but a replacement was eventually rebuilt by the Crusaders. Inside the church you will see the last five Stations of the Cross. Continue your walk passing through the colorful bazaar on your way to the Western (Wailing) Wall. This is the last vestige of the ramparts that surrounded the Holy Temple of the Jews, built by Solomon, destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar, rebuilt by Babylonian exiles, and burned down by Titus.

Following your walking tour, you will head back to the pier in Haifa.

**Special Note:** This tour includes approximately five hours of moderate to vigorous walking that includes steps, stairs, slopes, and uneven natural surfaces to negotiate. Time spent aboard the coach is approximately 5.5 hours. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests and is not suitable for those with other walking difficulties. Participants should be in good physical condition. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing, flat walking shoes with a non-slip sole; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen. Knees, shoulders, and midriffs must be covered when entering religious sites. There is no restroom stop on the drive between Haifa port and Jerusalem.

**HFA510PST JOURNEY TO JORDAN: ICONIC RUINS OF PETRA AND WADI RUM AND OVERNIGHT GLAMPING ADVENTURE - AUGUST 28, 2021 | $1,069pp**

**3 DAYS / 2 NIGHTS | MEALS: YES**

Travel to Jordan and explore the iconic sites of Petra and Wadi Rum, highlighted with an overnight glamping experience under the stars in Petra.

**Day 1** - Debark the ship and make the approximately 90-minute drive to the Allenby/King Hussein Bridge where you will be processed and then proceed into Jordan. En route to Petra, enjoy a boxed lunch on the coach. On arrival in the afternoon, take part in a guided tour of this ancient marvel. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is often referred to as the Rose Red city due to the hue of the rocks here and was once the capital for the Nabataean Arabs. The city thrived until a major earthquake in 363 AD and that, coupled with changing trade routes, led to its eventual downfall and abandonment.

Following your afternoon visit which includes seeing the iconic Treasury, you will transfer to the Seven Wonders Luxury Camp for check-in and dinner. Afterwards, relax by the fireside under a canopy of desert stars as you share stories with your fellow travelers and then retire for the evening to your well-appointed luxury tent.

**Day 2** - Your day starts with an early breakfast at the camp and after check-out, make the drive to Wadi Rum. The landscape here is nothing short of striking, with towering sandstone cliffs and miles of sweeping red sand dunes which have let to it being tagged for being similar to the landscape on Mars. Within the site, stone age petroglyphs have been uncovered and offer up a glimpse into the area's earliest beginnings. Nomadic Bedouin tribes still make their home here and it continues as a main stopping point on a migratory path through the desert. After touring the site and having lunch, you will transfer to the city of Amman and your overnight hotel. Following dinner, the remainder of the evening is at your leisure.

**Day 3** - Have breakfast in the hotel and after check-out, transfer to the airport for your flight home.

**Special Note:** This tour includes a mixture of moderate to Vigorous physical activity over a period of several days that includes significant walking, inclines, steps, natural and uneven surfaces in hot climates. Some of the activities may not be suitable for wheelchair guests, those with physical limitations or other health concerns. Guests should be in good physical condition. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing; flat, sturdy walking shoes with a closed toe; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen.

*Please note, when booking your flights, book your return home from Amman airport (AMM).*
ISTANBUL, TURKEY

- IST510PRE: Exploring the Valleys, Caves and Extraordinary Rock Formations of Magical, Mystical Cappadocia | August 13, 2021 | Price: $999
- IST302: Byzantine Treasures – Istanbul's Most Iconic Landmarks | August 14, 2021 | Price: □ Complimentary Option OR □ $75
- IST306 Istanbul's Ottoman Influence – The Blue Mosque, Topkapi Palace and Grand Bazaar | August 14, 2021 | Price: □ Complimentary Option OR □ $75

KEPEZ, TURKEY

- CKZ301: Ancient Troy – A UNESCO World Heritage Site | August 15, 2021 | Price: □ Complimentary Option OR □ $89
- CKZ302: The Historic Gallipoli Campaign | August 15, 2021 | Price: □ Complimentary Option OR □ $85

BOZCAADA, TURKEY

- BZC301: The Gems of Bozcaada – Bozcaada Castle, Alaybey Mosque and Museum | August 16, 2021 | Price: □ Complimentary Option OR □ $65
- BZC302: Bozcaada's Excellent Vinicultural Heritage – Old Town Visit and Winery | August 16, 2021 | Price: □ Complimentary Option OR □ $69
- BZA303: Bozcaada Beach Break | August 16, 2021 | Price: $85

DIKILI, TURKEY

- DIK301: Bike Adventure to the Pergamon Ruins | August 17, 2021 | Price: $199
- DIK303: Pergamon's Key Attractions: The Acropolis, The Library and The Zeus Altar | August 17, 2021 | Price: □ Complimentary Option OR □ $69

EPHESUS (KUSADASI), TURKEY

- KUS301: Intense Ephesus: The Iconic Attractions and Archaeological Museum | August 18, 2021 | Price: $105
- KUS302: Ephesus Landmarks and The Terrace Houses - Homes of the Wealthy Ephesians | August 18, 2021 | Price: □ Complimentary Option OR □ $85
- KUS306: Dinner Under the Stars at Ephesus - A Private Event | August 18, 2021 | Price: $299
- KUS310: Historic Sirince Village and the House of the Virgin Mary | August 18, 2021 | Price: □ Complimentary Option OR □ $85
- KUS311: The Ancient Ionian City of Miletus and the Sanctuary of Didyma | August 18, 2021 | Price: $79

PATMOS, GREECE

- PMS301: Discover the Iconic Sites of Patmos | August 19, 2021 | Price: $99
- PMS302: In-Depth View of the Monastery of St. John and Icon Restoration | August 19, 2021 | Price: □ Complimentary Option OR □ $79
- PMS303: In the footsteps of St. John | August 19, 2021 | Price: □ Complimentary Option OR □ $75

BODRUM, TURKEY

- BXN301: Explore the Archaeological Treasures of Ancient Iassos | August 20, 2021 | Price: □ Complimentary Option OR □ $69
- BXN303: Historical Bodrum Castle and the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus | August 20, 2021 | Price: □ Complimentary Option OR □ $69
- BXN304: Bodrum's Essential Landmarks and Relaxing Gulet Cruise | August 20, 2021 | Price: $269

Please note that all excursions are limited capacity and will be assigned based on date received. So, don't wait!

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WORKSHEET PAGE 1

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NOTES

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MARMARIS, TURKEY

- MRM301: Dalyan River Cruise and Visit to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Kaunos | August 21, 2021 | Price: $69
- MRM302: Authentic Turkish Bath Experience | August 21, 2021 | Price: $59
- MRM303: İçmeler Bay Beach Break | August 21, 2021 | Price: $59
- MRM304: Delightful Akyaka Village, Boat Ride and Marmaris Castle | August 21, 2021 | Price: $59

FETHIYE, TURKEY

- FET503: Tandem Paraglide Soar Over Stunning Oludeniz | August 22, 2021 | Price: $499
- FET505: Incredible Saklikent National Park and Gorge Exploration | August 22, 2021 | Price: $69

KEKOVA ISLAND AND DEMRE, TURKEY

- KEK301: Kalekoy’s Medieval Castle and the Surreal Sunken City of Simena | August 23, 2021 | Price: $79
- KEK302: Historical Ancient Myra and St. Nicholas Church | August 23, 2021 | Price: $85

PAPHOS, CYPRUS

- PFO501: 4X4 Safari with Exhilarating Water Trek and Climbing | August 24, 2021 | Price: $369
- PFO502: Mountain Bike Adventure in the Paphos Countryside | August 24, 2021 | Price: $189
- PFO503: Authentic Paphos - Neofytos Monastery, Tsangaras Winery and Sofía’s Traditional House | August 24, 2021 | Price: $189
- PFO507: Sea Kayaking to the Island of Yeronissos and Swim Break | August 24, 2021 | Price: $169

MASADA (ASHDOD), ISRAEL

- ASH505MS: MAX SHORE - The Ultimate Israel and Jordan Experience | August 25, 2021 | Price: COMPLIMENTARY (for MAX SHORE) or $3,589
- ASH5050VVD: Double: $1,199 Single: $1,999
- ASH502OVD: Journey to Jordan - Iconic Ruins of Petra and Wadi Rum and Overnight Glamping Adventure | August 25, 2021 | Price: $1,499
- ASH503: Beit Guvrin Caves Exploration, Archaeological Dig and Rowing in the Pool of Arches | August 25, 2021 | Price: $199
- ASH504: Jerusalem Landmarks and Walking Through the Colorful and Historic Old City | August 25, 2021 | Price: $169
- ASH506: The Legendary Fortress of Masada and Dead Sea Experience | August 25, 2021 | Price: $225
- ASH507: Journey to Historical Beit Guvrin | August 25, 2021 | Price: COMPLIMENTARY OPTION OR $99

MORE EXCURSIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

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| NOTES |

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PLAN YOUR LUXE-ADVENTURE VOYAGE
LET YOUR JOURNEY BEGIN!

At Atlas, every port includes a complimentary land excursion (shown in red). Feel free to take advantage of any, or all of these. But if you want something different to check off your bucket list, just let us know which excursions you want to purchase. Please note that all excursions are limited capacity and will be assigned based on date received. So, don't wait!

Complete this form and mail/email to:
ATLAS OCEAN VOYAGES · GUEST SERVICES
1 EAST BROWARD BLVD, SUITE 800 FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33301
1.844.44.ATLAS (28527) · RES@ATLASOCEANVOYAGES.COM

MASADA (ASHDOD), ISRAEL
☐ ASH301 Essential Israel: Bethlehem, View of Jerusalem and the Garden of Gethsemane | August 26, 2021 | Price: $145

☐ ASH304: Easy Jerusalem Panorama
August 26, 2021 | Price: $239

☐ ASH305: A Study in Contrasts – Walking Ancient Jaffa and Panoramic Modern Tel Aviv | August 26, 2021
Price: □ COMPLIMENTARY OPTION OR □ $99

JERUSALEM (HAIFA), ISRAEL
☐ HFA503: Jordan River Rafting Experience
August 27, 2021 | Price: $359

☐ HFA301: King Herod’s Triumph – Historical Caesarea Maritima
August 27, 2021 | Price: $149

☐ HFA302: In the Footsteps of Jesus: Nazareth, Tiberius, Capernaum and the Yardenit Baptismal Site | August 27, 2021 | Price: $135

☐ HFA304: Historic Zippori – The City of Mosaics
August 27, 2021 | Price: $149

☐ HFA306: Medieval Acre and the Crusaders Kingdom - A UNESCO World Heritage Site | August 27, 2021 | Price: $149

☐ HFA308: Exploring Nazareth and Canaan
August 27, 2021 | Price: □ COMPLIMENTARY OPTION OR □ $79

☐ HFA309: The UNESCO World Heritage Site of Meggido and Beit Sherim National Park | August 27, 2021
Price: □ COMPLIMENTARY OPTION OR □ $85

☐ HFA310: The Best of Jerusalem and the Historic Old City
August 27, 2021 | Price: $185

☐ HFA510PST Journey to Jordan: Iconic Ruins of Petra and Wadi Rum and Overnight Glamping Adventure | August 28, 2021 | Price: $1,069

WORKSHEET PAGE 3

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE #

BOOKING #

NOTES

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