JULY 28, 2021
ATLAS ASHORE – LAND EXCURSIONS
MAX SHORE: 16-NIGHT BLACK SEA IN FULL
**Day 2** of your adventure offers up a spectacular river trek alongside and within the Neda River, interestingly, one of the few rivers in Greece with a female name. Your trekking route passes through stone bridges, alongside narrow cliffs, underwater caves and impressive waterfalls. Scramble over rocks, balance on natural stone surfaces and in some of the narrower parts of the river gorge, make a short swim in order to continue on. Stop along the way to rest and enjoy a picnic lunch along the banks of the river before resuming your trek. All the effort is well worth it as you will find yourself at the end of your trail in the midst of a breathtakingly beautiful setting, complete with a cascading waterfall and natural river pool where you can go swimming. Transfer back to lodge in Stemnitsa where you will spend the night.

Your final day has you hiking into the untouched nature that surrounds the Lousios River gorge, also referred to as the "Mount Athos of the Peloponnese" on account of the monasteries that appear to be literally hanging from the surrounding cliffs. It is hard not to be awed by how these monasteries seeming cling to the sheer cliff faces and have done so for centuries.

During your hike, you will visit the St. John Prodromos monastery which is open to the public. End your adventure at the fascinating archaeological site of Ancient Gortyna which is nestled along the rushing Lousios River that in ancient times was actually called the Gortynios River. Afterwards, transfer to the pier in Piraeus for embarkation.

**Special Note:** This tour includes three days of moderate to vigorous physical activity that includes inclines, scrambling over rocks, natural and uneven surfaces. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests, those with physical limitations or other health concerns. Participants should be in good physical condition. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing, flat walking shoes with a closed toe that can get wet, a sun cap, sunglasses and sunscreen. For water activities, we suggest wearing a swimsuit under your clothes and bringing a towel. All safety equipment will be provided. Guests will need to sign a waiver before being allowed to take part in the activities.

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**PIR401PRE: EXPERIENCE ATHENS’ HISTORICAL PAST AND VIBRANT PRESENT - JULY 28, 2021 | $2,250**

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

Start your holiday early and enjoy Athens’ most iconic attractions, followed by a day that offers up an exhilarating bike ride and time for relaxing in the sun at the seaside.

**Day 1** Upon touching down in Athens, you will be greeted and transferred to your hotel, the Saint George Lycabettus (or similar) located in the heart of Athens and notable for having stunning views of the Acropolis. After check-in, relax before dinner and then have the rest of the evening at your leisure.

**Day 2** Start the day with breakfast in the hotel and then meet your guide in the lobby and commence your tour of Athens. As you head to the Acropolis site, you will pass many of the city’s main landmarks such as Constitution Square (or Syntagma Square as it is also known), the Houses of Parliament, the university buildings, the Royal Palace, and the Old Olympic Stadium of Athens. The stadium, which offers fantastic views of the Acropolis, was built entirely of marble, and served as the site of the first modern day Olympics in 1896. However, the true highlight of the tour comes next when you arrive at the foot of the magnificent Acropolis, one of the most famous and photographed ancient monuments in the world. You will leave your coach behind here and set off on a walking tour that will be split into several stages, allowing for the guide to explain its rich history and for you to take short rest breaks. At the summit, there will be some free time to stroll about and admire the ancient temple of Athena Nike and the towering Parthenon.

Following your time at the summit, you will travel back down the mountain and visit the superlative Acropolis Museum that was opened in 2009. There is an immense amount of exhibition space and the way it has been laid out with expansive windows can give the impression of crossing the ancient settlements nestled on the slopes of the Acropolis. Next, travel to the Plaka, the colorful old quarter of Athens that is rich with neoclassical architecture, ancient monuments and Byzantine churches, not to mention a plethora of shops and cafes. Following lunch here, there will be free time to do some shopping...
and explore on your own before transferring back to the hotel where you will enjoy dinner and then have the remainder of the evening to do as you please.

**Day 3** After breakfast, change things up and head toward the Athens Riviera. Once here, it’s time to climb aboard a bike and be introduced to this other side of the city. As you bike along colorful side streets, soak in the local ambience and experience an uplifting bond with the surrounding sea. Mid-day stop for lunch by the beach and enjoy some free time to take a dip in the ocean or bask in the warmth of the sun before transferring back to the hotel.

Your final night takes you to the picturesque Mikrolimano area of Piraeus where you will be treated to dinner at the Varoulko restaurant. The restaurant’s menu was created by Lefteris Lazarou, Greece’s top-awarded Michelin-Star chef, so you can expect an extraordinary dining experience. Later, with a satisfied palate and sense of contentment, head back to the hotel for the night.

**Day 4** The morning is at leisure and then you will join your transfer to the ship for embarkation.

Special Note: This tour includes three days of moderate to physical activity that includes steps, inclines, natural and cobblestone surfaces. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests and may not be suitable for those with other physical limitations or health concerns. Participants should be in good physical condition and comfortable riding a bike. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing, flat walking shoes with a closed toe that can get wet, a sun cap, sunglasses, and sunscreen. For water activities, we suggest wearing a swimsuit under your clothes and bringing a towel. All safety equipment will be provided. Those who take part in any water activities do so at their own risk and responsibility.

**EPHESUS (KUSADASI), TURKEY**

**KUS301: INTENSE EPHESUS: THE ICONIC ATTRACTIONS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM - JULY 29, 2021 | $105.00**

- **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 - JULY 29, 2021 | $85.00**

- **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.

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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 approximately 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.

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**KUS306: DINNER UNDER THE STARS AT EPHESUS - A PRIVATE EVENT - JULY 29, 2021 | $299pp**

**3 HOURS | MEAL: DINNER**

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 Harbour Street location where white linen-clad tables are set up against the backdrop of an ancient amphitheater. As you are seated, you will no doubt agree that while the magnificent historic landmarks of Ephesus are incredible sights to behold in daylight hours, when seen lit up under the stars, they simply become both ethereal and breathtaking.

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.

July 26th date is held at the Harbour Street location within Ephesus.

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**KUS309: EXCLUSIVE BEHIND-THE-SCENES TOUR OF EPHESUS WITH AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPERT - JULY 29, 2021 | $119pp**

**5 HOURS | MEAL: NONE**

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, unearthed 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 founts 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 five 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.
This fascinating walking tour will give you an up-close view of the delightful Byzantine town of Nessebar, one of the most charming places in Bulgaria. Replete with narrow, cobblestone lanes, quaint houses and churches of various styles and architecture, it's no wonder the Old Town of Nessebar has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Your guided walking tour has you experiencing first-hand its remarkable medieval atmosphere and uncovering all of its treasures which include its most impressive churches which are the heart of the town’s unique atmosphere.

Start by meeting your guide in the port and walking to St. Stefan's Church which was built at the end of the 10th century and has been restored several times. Within its walls you will find 258 exceptional murals and original paintings from the 16th century, along with a wood carved pulpit from that era. Today, the church is also a museum and considered one of Bulgaria’s most significant cultural monuments.

Continue on down narrow cobblestoned streets with their two-storied period houses that exude a sense of romanticism. As you make your way to the Old Metropolitan Church, pass small town squares and quaint shops. A profusion of sidewalk vendors offers up a wide array of artwork and handicrafts, reminiscent of the spirit of the Agora. Continuing your stroll to the main gates of the Old Town, see the churches of Blessed Savior, St. John the Baptist and the Christ Pantocrator with its fine example of ornamental architecture. By the main gates, find the Archaeological Museum where you will enjoy a visit. Housed within its walls are fine collections of jewelry, coins, pottery, statues, plaques and magnificent icons. Afterwards, stop for refreshments before returning to the pier. Those who wish may stay behind in town and return on their own to the ship.

Special Note: This tour includes approximately two hours of mild to moderate walking/standing that includes steps and uneven surfaces. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests and may not be suitable for those with walking difficulties or other physical limitations. Participants should be in good health. 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.

2.5 HOURS | MEAL: NONE

This fascinating walking tour will give you an up-close view of the delightful Byzantine town of Nessebar, one of the most charming places in Bulgaria.

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Special Note: This tour includes approximately two hours of mild to moderate walking/standing that includes steps and uneven surfaces. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests and may not be suitable for those with walking difficulties or other physical limitations. Participants should be in good health. 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.
NES303: A FUSION OF BULGARIAN FOOD AND WINE AND LIVE MUSICAL PERFORMANCE - JULY 31, 2021 | $129pp

⌈ 2.75 HOURS | MEAL: DINNER ⌉

You have spent the day discovering captivating Nessebar, now spend the evening partaking of its excellent cuisine, local wines, and authentic entertainment.

A short drive from the pier brings you to one of the Black Sea Coast’s best restaurants where you will be treated to a delicious dinner of traditional Bulgarian dishes, updated with a modern twist. Your gourmet dinner will be paired with premium Bulgarian wines, making for an even more enjoyable dining experience. And if that wasn’t enough, an exclusive, live instrumental performance of popular Bulgarian and international music will definitely add to the atmosphere and help create what will surely be an unforgettable night.

Afterwards, return to the ship and perhaps have a nightcap on deck as you bid farewell to delightful Nessebar.

Special Note: This tour includes a limited amount of mild walking. The tour is available to wheelchair guests who are able to make their own way on and off the transportation and have a companion to assist them. We recommend country club casual clothing with a light sweater or jacket as evenings can be cool, and comfortable shoes.

NES305: DISCOVER THE HEART OF NESSEBAR ON FOOT AND STEP BACK IN TIME AT AN ETHNOGRAPHIC COMPLEX - JULY 31, 2021 | $75pp

⌈ 4 HOURS | MEAL: SNACK ⌉

Discover the charms of Nessebar, a UNESCO World Heritage designated village on this delightful tour that showcases its history and traditions. Situated on a picturesque rocky peninsula, this museum-like town possesses an atmosphere not found anywhere else along this coast.

Meet your guide at the pier and take a short walk into the heart of the village for a visit to St. Stefan’s church. Sections of this rustic stone church date back to the 11th century and within its walls you will find murals depicting figures from the New Testament that date back to 1599. Your walking tour continues, taking you past numerous historical sites within the village and including exterior visits of some of its most significant and beautiful churches.

Next, board a coach and travel inland to Orizare, location of the authentic ethnographic complex that serves as a guardian of Bulgarian traditions. Behind stone walls and heavy gates, lies a fascinating complex that authentically exhibits the lifestyle and traditions of a typical Bulgarian family from the past century. Step inside a small, whitewashed house for a glimpse into domestic interior decoration. Glimpse into the private chapel with its beautiful wood carved iconostasis and colorful murals. It’s easy to imagine what daily life might have looked like.

Afterwards, sit back and relax with a glass of local wine while watching a demonstration of “banitsa” preparation. Banitsa is a popular Bulgarian cheese pie made by wrapping phyllo sheets around a filling of yogurt, eggs, and feta cheese. Then be treated to tastings of other traditional Bulgarian specialties while enjoying a lively folklore performance.

Filled with newfound appreciation of all things Bulgarian, and a satisfied palate, you’ll drive back to the pier.

Special Note: This tour includes approximately two hours of moderate walking/standing that includes steps and uneven surfaces. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests, those with walking difficulties or other physical limitations. 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.
Day 1: Shortly after the ship arrives in Constanta you will make the scenic three-hour drive to Bucharest. On arrival, enjoy a guided tour of the city and lunch before transferring to the airport for your chartered afternoon flight to Kiev. After touching down at the Boryspil airport, you will be greeted and transferred to your hotel (Fairmont Grand Hotel or similar). Dinner this evening is either in the hotel or at a local restaurant. Following dinner, the evening is at your leisure.

Day 2 (May be reversed with Day 3): After an early breakfast in the hotel, board your coach for the drive to Pripyat. Arriving at the Dytaytky Checkpoint, you will have your passport checked, be briefed on radiation safety, the rules of visitation, and receive your personal dosimeter. Once cleared, proceed within the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone. There will be a second checkpoint at Pripyat. Within the city, you will have a panoramic tour of its abandoned buildings. For safety concerns, all visits are exterior within the city. Once populated with 50,000 residents, the town now sits in a silent testament to what was once everyday life here. Some of the sights you may see during your tour of the town is the almost buried village of Kopachi with its remaining kindergarten; a concrete reloading unit which was essential for the Sarcophagus erection in 1986; the hospital that received the badly injured firefighters and NPP workers; the river port and once prestigious Pripyat Café at the embankment; the Town Hall which served as the initial headquarters for mitigation; the Polissya Hotel which served as a staging area for the helicopters dropping lead bags over the Reactor 4 ruins; the Energetic Palace of Culture; the Ferris Wheel at the never opened amusement park; Pripyat Stadium; and the Azure swimming pool which was still in operation after the accident.

Following your comprehensive panoramic tour, drive to the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) for an interior visit that includes the Administrative Building #1; the central block shield that controlled the third reactor control room; an integrated automatic system of control of the “Shelter” object which was the massive steel and concrete sarcophagus that covered Nuclear Reactor #4; and the reactor’s main circulation pump room. During this extraordinary visit, your guide will relate to you the story of the fire extinguishing efforts and evacuation of the residents on the night of the disaster. Before pausing for lunch in the Chernobyl NPP Canteen, you will see a fire station, the Sarcophagus, and the New Safe Confinement “Arch.”

In the afternoon, make the drive back to Kiev, passing back through the Dytaytky Checkpoint. On arrival, at the hotel, have some time to relax and reflect on the day before heading back out to a local restaurant for dinner (alternatively, dinner in the hotel). Following dinner, the remainder of the evening is at your leisure.

After breakfast in the hotel, board your coach for a full-day tour of Kiev, Ukraine’s vibrant capital city. Some notable landmarks in the city include St. Sophia Cathedral that was built in the 11th century where an interior visit reveals amazing frescoes, mosaics, and beautiful church paintings. Nearby is St. Andrews Church where there will be an exterior visit before having some free time to shop for souvenirs.

Following lunch at a local restaurant, drive to the Kyiv-Pecherskaya Lavra Monastery which was founded in 1051 by two monks to help promote the spread of Christianity. Built primarily in the Ukrainian Baroque style, it makes for a majestic silhouette of Kiev from the Dnipro River. During your visit, explore its churches, the golden treasury, and a museum of micro miniatures.

Return to the hotel in the late afternoon and after some time to relax, head back out to a local restaurant for dinner (alternatively, dinner in the hotel). Following dinner, the remainder of the evening is at your leisure.

Day 3 (May be reversed with Day 2): After breakfast in the hotel, board your coach for a full-day tour of Kiev, Ukraine’s vibrant capital city. Some notable landmarks in the city include St. Sophia Cathedral that was built in the 11th century where an interior visit reveals amazing frescoes, mosaics, and beautiful church paintings. Nearby is St. Andrews Church where there will be an exterior visit before having some free time to shop for souvenirs.

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Return to the hotel in the late afternoon and after some time to relax, head back out to a local restaurant for dinner (alternatively, dinner in the hotel). Following dinner, the remainder of the evening is at your leisure.

Day 4: After breakfast, check-out of the hotel and transfer to Boryspil airport for your flight to Odessa. Upon arrival, enjoy a panoramic tour of the city and a box lunch on the coach before arriving at the pier and re-joining the ship.

Special Note: Guests must be at least 18 years of age to participate. All visitors to Chernobyl must carry their valid passport and abide by The Chernobyl Dress Code: Pants Only (no skirts, leggings, or shorts). Long sleeve shirt (no tank tops or short sleeve shirts). Closed-toed shoes (no sandals or flip-flops). Furthermore, it is prohibited to carry any kind of weapons; drink alcohol or take drugs; eat or smoke in the open air; touch any structures or vegetation; sit or place photo or video equipment on the ground; take any items outside the Exclusion Zone; stay in the Exclusion Zone without the officer/agent who is responsible for your group. The tour sequence may vary, and the sites visited altered without prior notice.
The capital of Romania, Bucharest is a modern European City that is alive with a rich culture, colorful way of life and ever-expanding development.

While the drive from Constanta to Bucharest does take a bit of time (three hours each way), it is well worth the trip. Picturesque scenery and interesting narration will keep you engaged along the way and before you know it, you will find yourself arriving in this captivating city that is the 6th largest capital city in the European Union. Fondly referred to as “Little Paris of the East” because its architecture and lifestyle was very similar to Paris from 1900 – 1930, it was considered to be one of the most beautiful and modern cities in Europe.

Your exploration of Bucharest commences with a drive to Constitution Square and a visit to the Palace of Parliament, the second largest building in the world after the Pentagon in the U.S. This massive building was built at the order of the late communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu and is a landmark site.

Aside from its large size, it is also the heaviest building in the world. Referred to as the People's House, it now is home to the Romanian Chamber of Deputies and the Senate. The building also houses a museum, several conference and exhibition halls, and other rooms used for a variety of public and government purposes.

After your tour of the Parliament building, lunch awaits you at one of the city's best restaurants and includes an entertaining musical performance. Following lunch, drive to the Ceausescu Mansion for a tour of this controversial home of the late dictator. At one time it was a well-kept secret of the regime and its opulence stands in stark contrast to the darker days of that era.

Next, travel to the Romanian Athenaeum for a photo stop. This stately concert hall located in the center of the city is another iconic Bucharest landmark. Your last stop before driving back to Constanta is the CEC Palace. This impressive neoclassical building is yet another of the city's outstanding highlights and time will be afforded to take pictures before leaving Bucharest behind.

Special Note: This tour includes approximately three hours of moderate walking/standing that includes a large number of steps/stairs to negotiate. The drive to Bucharest is three hours each direction. 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.

The museum is one of the richest in the country, with excellent collections of prehistoric Greek, Roman and Byzantine archaeological pieces. Amongst the statues exhibited here, the most famous are that of Fortuna Goddess and Pontos God (protectors of the town), and the Glycon snake, the protector of the house and family.

Following the museum visit, see one of the largest known mosaics in Europe. Nearly 2,000 years old, the mosaic was once an immense decorative pavement used by the Romans. Today, a substantial portion remains of the thousands of multi-hued tiles that comprise this beautiful and extraordinary piece of history.

Leaving Ovid Square, it’s a short drive to the Folk-Art Museum where outstanding displays of traditional Romanian folk items and colorful costumes can be found on exhibit. A gift shop at the museum offers the opportunity to purchase some original handicrafts made by Romanian artisans.

Next, drive outside the city to Eforie Nord, one of the most popular resorts on the Romanian Black Sea coast. Here, at the Nunta Zamfirei restaurant, enjoy a Romanian folk show depicting a typical Romanian wedding while sipping Romanian wine and tasting some traditional snacks. Afterwards, drive back to the pier in Constanta.

Special Note: This tour includes approximately two hours of moderate walking/standing that includes a significant number of steps to negotiate. 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.
CND306: THE ANCIENT CITADEL OF HISTRIA - AUGUST 1, 2021 | $99PP

Just an hour's drive from Constanta lies the Ancient Citadel of Histria, at one time one of the largest Greek settlements on the shores of the Black Sea. Come explore this remarkable archaeological site that so wonderfully captures Romania's national heritage.

Travel up the coast through rural Romania, enjoying pastoral scenery while your guide shares his knowledge and prepares you for your visit to Histria. Founded on the shores of Lake Sinoe by Greek merchants and navigators 2,600 years ago, it served as a hub for trading items such as olive oil, honey, wax, beef skins, salted fish, and Greek valuables. A valuable asset that captures 14 centuries of the country's past, the city was connected to all of the major events that took place in the Greek, Roman and Byzantine worlds. One of the first Greek colonies founded along the Black Sea, it is the oldest urban structure in the Romanian territory.

The town began to decline in the middle of the 7th century when the urban lifestyle of the area was replaced by a rural one. Largely forgotten, it was rediscovered in 1868 and archaeological research of the area began in 1914 continues today. Over time, sand began to build up in the bay, making access to the sea more difficult; however, trade continued until the 6th century. Its final demise came after an invasion by the Avars, which nearly completely destroyed the fortress and the residents left for safer locations.

Following your visit to the site, make your way to the museum next door where the exhibits showcase a unique collection of valuable archaeological discoveries from the surrounding area. Afterwards, transfer back to the port in Constanta.

Special Note: This tour includes approximately 90 minutes of moderate walking/standing that includes some steps and negotiating natural and uneven surfaces. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests and may not be suitable for those with other mobility issues. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing; sun cap; sunglasses, sunscreen and flat walking or sport shoes with a closed toe.
In the afternoon, make the drive back to Kiev, passing back through the Dytaytky Checkpoint and enjoying a snack on the coach before arriving at Kiev’s Canteen, you will see a fire station, the Sarcophagus, and the New Safe Confinement “Arch.” to you the story of the fire extinguishing efforts and evacuation of the residents on the night of the disaster. Before pausing for lunch in the Chernobyl NPP concrete sarcophagus that covered Nuclear Reactor #4; and the reactor’s main circulation pump room. During this extraordinary visit, your guide will relate block shield that controlled the third reactor control room; an integrated automatic system of control of the “Shelter” object which was the massive steel and mitigation; the Polissya Hotel which was the staging area for the helicopters dropping lead bags over the Reactor 4 ruins; the Energetic Palace of Culture; the firefighters and NPP workers; the river port and once prestigious Pripyat Café at the embankment; the Town Hall which served as the initial headquarters for before a rejoining your coach for a panoramic transfer back to the port in Constanta.

Re-board your coach and drive to the Old Town and Ovid Square. Stop for photos here at the statue of the well-known Roman poet Ovid, who spend a god portion of his life here. You can also view the National History Museum, the Turkish Mosque and the Roman Mosaic.

Next, travel to Mamaia, the most famous of Romanian seaside resorts. Enjoy some free time here to walk on the beach and appreciate the beauty of the area before a rejoining your coach for a panoramic transfer back to the port in Constanta.

Special Note: This tour is primarily seated with limited mild walking/standing. The tour is available to wheelchair guests who have a collapsible wheelchair, are able to make their own way on and off the transportation with limited assistance 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.

ODESSA, UKRAINE

CND307: CONSTANTA’S MARQUEE ATTRACTIONS - AUGUST 1, 2021 | $89

3 HOURS | MEAL: NONE

Sit back and relax on this mostly panoramic tour of Constanta, Romania’s third largest city, as you view many of its landmark attractions.

One of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in Romania, it was founded by the Greeks around 600 BC and at that time, was called Tomis. It was one of the largest and most prosperous settlements on the Black Sea Coast. After being conquered by the Romans, the name was changed to Constantiana in honor of Constantia, the half-sister of the Roman Emperor – Constantine the Great.

Start with a short coach ride from the port to the Casino, perhaps Constanta’s most famous landmark. Built three separate times, with the first structure being erected of wood in 1880 and was originally designed to be a club and community center for the elite and upper-class socialites with money to spend. The most recent version was built in the Art Nouveau style and aside from being a symbol of the city, is considered the most important Art Nouveau building in Romania. After a photo stop here, continue on foot to the nearby Genovese Lighthouse. The original lighthouse was built around 1300 by the Genoese who traded in the port and was intended to guide ships at sea from a range of approximately two nautical miles. Later, it was rebuilt by French-Armenian engineer Artin Aslan by order of the British-owned Danube and Black Sea Railway Company.

After approximately three hours, you come to the Dytaytky Checkpoint. This is where you will have your passport checked, be briefed on radiation safety, the rules of visitation, and receive your personal dosimeter. Once cleared, proceed within the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone, the area surrounding Chernobyl to which access was previously forbidden, and make your way to the Hotel Desyatka, passing the village of Zalissya and its abandoned houses and barns, and a decontaminated Red Forest which received the first and worst radioactive fallout. After check-in, have dinner at the hotel with the remainder of the evening at leisure.

Following your panoramic tour, drive to the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) for an interior visit that includes the Administrative Building #1; the central block shield that controlled the third reactor control room; an integrated automatic system of control of the “Shelter” object which was the massive steel and concrete sarcophagus that covered Nuclear Reactor #4; and the reactor’s main circulation pump room. During this extraordinary visit, your guide will relate to you the story of the fire extinguishing efforts and evacuation of the residents on the night of the disaster. Before pausing for lunch in the Chernobyl NPP Canteen, you will see a fire station, the Sarcophagus, and the New Safe Confinement "Arch."

In the afternoon, make the drive back to Kiev, passing back through the Dytaytky Checkpoint and enjoying a snack on the coach before arriving at Kiev's Boryspol Airport where you will check in for your flight back to Odessa. On arrival in Odessa, transfer directly to the ship for re-boarding.

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Special Note: This tour includes a mixture of mild to moderate physical activity over a two-day period that includes significant walking, steps, inclines, 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. There is a mandatory dress code for Chernobyl and all visitors must wear long pants only (no skirts, dresses, leggings, or shorts); a long sleeve shirt (no tank tops or short sleeve shirts) and closed toe shoes (no sandals or flip-flops). All safety equipment will be provided where needed. Guests are required to sign a waiver before being allowed to take part in the Chernobyl portion of the tour and must make sure to have their passports and other tour documentation with them at all times.

ODS306: A SPECIAL EVENING PERFORMANCE AT THE SPECTACULAR ODESSA OPERA HOUSE AND BALLET THEATER -
AUGUST 2, 2021 | $99pp

2.5 HOURS | MEALS: NONE

You might not have even thought of putting this on your bucket list, but once you’ve experienced it, you will wonder why you didn’t! A truly once-in-a-lifetime experience awaits those who dare to be different.

The Yak-18T is a lightweight, fully acrobatic, multi-purpose aircraft with four seats and dual controls. Its design includes a low wing and a three-wheeled, retractable landing gear. Originally produced to train Aeroflot pilots, the aircraft has since gained popularity as plane used for sport.

Travel approximately 45 minutes through a landscape seen by few visitors as you make your way from the pier to the flying club located in Naberezhnoye. Your Yak-18T aircraft awaits you here and after meeting your pilot and going through pre-checks, it’s time to take-off and soar into the skies. Weather conditions and air traffic permitting, your flight will reach an altitude of 6500 feet. From this lofty vantage point, you will be treated to amazing views of the scenic shores of the Hadzhibey and Kuyalnitsky estuaries and parts of the city of Odessa. While you won’t be doing any barrel roles or inverted flying, your pilot will turn the controls over to you and allow you to fly the plane! What a thrill for those who have never piloted a plane but always wanted to.

Your flight time is approximately 30 minutes and upon landing back at the flying club, you will make the return drive back to the port.

Special Note: This tour is primarily seated. The drive to and from the airfield is approximately 45 minutes in each direction. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests, those with mobility limitations or health concerns such as high blood pressure, heart, back or neck issues. It may not be suitable for those who suffer from a fear of heights or motion sickness. We recommend wearing non-restrictive weather appropriate clothing and flat walking shoes. Flights will not operate in adverse weather conditions and this tour must be pre-booked at least 21 days in advance of the tour date.

ODS502: AMAZING FLIGHT ON THE YAK-18T AEROBATIC PLANE -
AUGUST 2, 2021 | AUGUST 3, 2021 | $479pp

2.5 HOURS | MEALS: NONE

3.25 HOURS | MEALS: NONE

Spend an unforgettable evening experiencing a classical opera or ballet performance at the beautiful Odessa National Opera and Ballet Theater.

Leave the pier and make the short drive to the city center and its crown jewel, the magnificent Opera House which has recently been restored. Built in the Vienna baroque style, inside you will find a magnificent hall, decorated with numerous adornments finished with fine gilt touches, and in the center of the ceiling, an immense chandelier dazzles with its prisms of light. The stage area is over 1600 sq. ft. and the unique acoustics of the theater make it possible to hear even a whisper on stage in every part of the hall.

In addition to its stunning architecture, the theater has a rich history and is primarily responsible for the development of southern Ukraine’s musical culture. A wide range of internationally recognized theater actors have performed on its illustrious stage. On this evening, you will have the pleasure of experiencing a memorable performance that may well be a highlight of your trip. During intermission, enjoy a glass of complimentary champagne or a refreshing fruit juice.

Following the performance, you will meet your transportation and transfer directly back to the pier and your awaiting ship.

Special Note: This tour is primarily seated. 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 smart, country club casual attire. The actual performance you will see is subject to the seasonal repertoire of the theater and won’t be confirmed until late Spring of 2021.
This comprehensive highlights tour showcases Odessa's most notable sites and attractions and provides a wonderful overview of this historical city.

Drive from the port to Catherine Square where the new monument to Catherine the Great watches over the comings and goings. Your guide will impart the history of this Russian Empress and the meaning of this impressive statue. A short walk from here brings you to Prymorsky Boulevard and the statue of Duke Armand Emmanuel Richelieu, Odessa's first mayor. According to legend, the Duke wanted to build a city as beautiful as his native Paris. When Napoleon was exiled to Elba in 1814, the Duke ended his service in Odessa and returned to France where he later served two terms as Prime Minister. It is here you will also see the famed Potemkin Steps and learn about their history. This large stairway is considered the formal entrance to the city from the direction of the sea and is an iconic symbol of the city.

Continue walking along Prymorsky Boulevard where you can admire its beautiful 19th century buildings, a shady promenade and lovely park. Further along, in front of the colonnaded Odessa City Hall, you'll pause for photos near Pushkin Square and a British Tiger gun that was captured in 1854 during the Crimean campaign. Also nearby is the Archaeological Museum where you will have a guided visit. Established in 1875, it was the first museum of its kind in the former Russian Empire and houses a wide collection of artifacts from around the area. Your tour includes the marvelous Golden Room where you can view a display of ancient jewelry.

The tour draws to a close with a visit to the Count Mikhail Vorontsov monument in Cathedral Square. Count Vorontsov was considered a remarkable man who served as the Governor-General of the area from 1823-1853. One of his most notable accomplishments was building the first steamship here and establishing steamship service for the Black Sea ports. It was during this time that Odessa began developing as a major port city.

Enjoy some free time in Cathedral Square to browse for souvenirs before driving back to the port.

Special Note: This tour includes approximately 2.5 hours of moderate walking/standing that includes some steps. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests and is not considered suitable for those 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.

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Discover Odessa's Jewish Heritage with visits to two synagogues, the Jewish Museum, and a walk through the Moldavanka District.

After departing the pier, first travel to Primorsky Boulevard where you will have a walking tour that highlights several monuments and the famed Potemkin Steps. Learn about their history as well as how Odessa gained the nickname "Gateway to Zion." Your walk along this delightful chestnut tree-lined boulevard continues to the revered Odessa Opera House and Ballet Theater where you will pause for photos.

Rejoin your coach and drive to the over 100-year-old Shomrei Shabbos Synagogue for a visit. Leaving here, pass by the impressive Brodsky Synagogue en route to Jewish Street where the old Main Synagogue with its imposing stone edifice now resides. After your visit here, make your way to a local Jewish restaurant for some snacks and a refreshment. Your tour then continues to the Moldavanka District and the Holocaust Memorial. Here, in a small park are two dark grey marble stones, one engraved in lighter shades with a menorah, and the other with a Magen David. The inscription states, "Remember in the name of the future'.

Your final stop before returning to the pier is at the Museum of History of Odessa Jews which was opened in 2002 as a private museum. The museum's extensive collection includes photos, documents and other memorabilia donated by the local Jewish community.

Special Note: This tour includes just over 2.5 hours of mild to moderate walking/standing that includes a few steps and some uneven surfaces. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests and is not considered suitable for those walking difficulties. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing (no shorts); sturdy, flat walking shoes with a closed toe, a sun cap, sunglasses and sunscreen. Shoulders, legs, and midriffs must be covered when entering religious sites and women should cover their heads.
ODS311: PANORAMIC ODESSA – CLASSIC SITES AND MONUMENTS - AUGUST 2, 2021 | $75pp

4 HOURS | MEAL: NONE

This comprehensive panoramic tour of Odessa makes it easy to have a great overview of the city's main highlights with limited walking involved.

Start from the port with a drive to Prymorsky Boulevard where a short stop allows views of the new Monument to Catherine the Great, the statue of the legendary Duke Armand Emmanual Richelieu and the iconic Potemkin Steps which are perhaps the most well-known symbol of Odessa. During the stop, your guide will share with you the history associated with each of these attractions.

Next, drive to the impressive Odessa Opera and Ballet Theater. Designed by Viennese architects in the 1880s, it is representative of the Habsburg Baroque style of the day with some Italian Renaissance features as well. A brief stop here will allow time for photos and to take a closer look before walking to the restaurant next door for a relaxing comfort and refreshment stop.

Continuing on, drive to the Arcadia area, en route viewing the city’s 19th-century architecture, Odessa churches and the railway station as your guide enlightens you about the modern development of the city. Then it’s down French Boulevard to Shevchenko Park where you will disembark the coach and make the short walk to the Unknown Soldier Memorial and the eternal flame that commemorates those who fell defending this hero-city during WWII.

Next up is Cathedral Square where you will stop to visit the Preobrazhensky Cathedral and see the monument to Count Mikhail Semyonovich Vorontsov who was the Governor-General of Novorossia (New Russia) from 1823-1853. A remarkable man, his achievements included building the first steamship to navigate the Dnieper River and establishing steam ship service in the Black Sea ports which was significant in the development of Odessa as a major port. His long list of accomplishments includes personally transporting a set of surgical instruments from Britain for use in Odessa's hospital.

Before driving back to the port, you will be afforded some free time to shop for souvenirs in Cathedral Square.

Special Note: This tour includes approximately one-hour of mild walking/standing that may include some steps, plus any additional discretionary walking during free time. Guests may remain on the coach during stops if they choose. 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; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen.

ODS312: ULTIMATE ODESSA: ICONIC ATTRACTIONS, BRANDY MUSEUM VISIT AND TASTING - AUGUST 2, 2021 | $219pp

7 HOURS | MEALS: LUNCH

This all-encompassing tour gives visitors to Odessa the perfect opportunity to become acquainted with the city's history, architectural and cultural heritage.

A short drive from the pier finds you in Catherine's Square where you will pause for photos at the monument to Catherine the Great – the Russian Empress who was the founder of Odessa. From here, stroll to Primorsky Boulevard and the statue of Duke Armand Emmanual Richelieu, Odessa's first mayor. According to legend, the Duke wanted to build a city as beautiful as his native Paris. The Boulevard is also where you will find the famed Potemkin Steps and learn about their history. This large stairway is considered the formal entrance to the city from the direction of the sea and is an iconic symbol of the city.

Continue walking this delightful chestnut tree-lined Boulevard where you can admire its beautiful 19th century buildings, a shady promenade, the sparkling sea, and a lovely park. Further along, in front of the colonnaded Odessa City Hall, you'll pause for photos near Pushkin Square and a British Tiger gun that was captured in 1854 during the Crimean campaign.

Rejoining your coach, drive to the Fine Arts Museum. This former palace of Count Pototsky was built in 1805 and is a noteworthy museum. Housed in an exquisite setting of ornamental halls, painted ceilings, parquet floors and fine marble you will discover an impressive display of paintings dating back to the 18th century and an even more amazing collection of icons from the 14th and 15th centuries. There are also works by contemporary artists. During your visit, visit the Grotto where you will be treated to a unique private cello or violin classical music performance.

From the museum, drive to the main temple of Odessa – The Transfiguration Cathedral with its marvelous architecture. Take a look inside at the recently restored wonderful interior and learn about its history before traveling on foot down the Deribasovskaya Street and Passage to the City Garden where there will be time for a short stroll before enjoying lunch at a local Ukrainian restaurant.

Your final stop before returning to the ship will be the Shustov Cognac Museum. This interesting exhibit gives visitors a good insight into the history of the Shustov dynasty and the original distillation process. Of course, no visit here would be complete without sampling the product and you will be invited to partake in the sampling of four varieties of locally produced brandy.

Special Note: This tour includes approximately five hours of mild to moderate walking/standing that includes steps. 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, midriffs, and legs must be covered when entering religious sites.

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Travel from Odessa to Belgorod-Dnestrovsky, a city deemed by UNESCO as one of the world's ten oldest cities which have existed non-interrupted since their creation, to see the renowned Akkerman Fortress. Later, visit a local winery for a wine tasting.

From the pier, it's a scenic two-hour drive to Belgorod-Dnestrovsky, location of Akkerman Fortress. Before reaching the fortress, a refreshment stop will be made that includes a short folkloric performance. Akkerman Fortress is situated on the Dniester Estuary and is the only example of medieval military that has survived in southwestern Ukraine. Founded by Greek colonists from Miletus, the fortress features well-preserved remains of houses, stone-paved streets, water tunnels and a Roman garrison. There are also remains of an early Christian temple. Originally there were three gates, 20 towers, a defensive wall and defensive entrenchment. There are also examples of Turkish architecture found in the remains such as baths and a minaret.

Following a fascinating visit at the fortress, drive to a local restaurant for a traditional Ukrainian style lunch before continuing on to Shabo Winery. Wine grapes have been grown in the Shabo region since the 12th century and the famous Shabo settlement was founded by French and Swiss settlers in the 18th century. Today, Shabo Winery owns nearly 2,500 acres of vineyards and nearly 33,000 square feet of wine storehouses. At the conclusion of your winery tour, you will be invited to sample 6 varieties of their wines in the tasting hall. Afterwards, it’s time to drive back to the port in Odessa.

Special Note: This tour includes approximately three hours of mild to moderate walking/standing that includes numerous steps. 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.

**ODS305: HISTORIC AKKERMAN FORTRESS – A SOUTHWESTERN UKRAINE MILITARY BASTION AND WINERY VISIT - AUGUST 3, 2021 | $229pp**

9 HOURS | MEALS: LUNCH

**ODS307: ODESSA REMEMBRANCE – THE FAMOUS CATACOMBS AND WWII MONUMENTS - AUGUST 3, 2021 | $75pp**

3.5 HOURS | MEALS: NONE

Odessa played a major role in WWII as a center for the Soviet Resistance against Nazi Germany in the Black Sea region. Visit the impressive underground labyrinth of catacombs that served as an underground fort for the Soviet Army and the Resistance Museum.

Travel by coach from the port through the scenic countryside that surrounds Odessa to the village of Nerubaiskoe. First settled by Ukrainian Cossacks as a fortress, the catacombs originally were where the city sourced its limestone. During the war, they became an underground fortress for the Soviet Army. These amazing catacombs that are spread over three levels are amongst the largest in the world, stretching an impressive 1,600 miles. After visiting the catacombs, view the WWII Command Post here and then walk to the nearby Resistance Museum where you will learn even more about the resistance movement and the defensive role the Catacombs played during the war.

Re-boarding your coach, travel back to Odessa and Shevchenko Park where you will walk along the Alley of Glory to the Unknown Sailor Memorial and the eternal flame that burns in memory of those who lost their lives here defending Odessa during WWII. Following your time here, you will transfer directly back to the port.

Special Note: This tour includes just under two hours of mild to moderate walking that includes some steps and negotiating some natural and uneven surfaces. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests and may not be suitable for those with other mobility issues or those who suffer from claustrophobia. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing to include a light jacket for the catacombs; flat walking or sport shoes with a closed toe; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen.
Discover the highlights and rich cultural heritage of Odessa, which for centuries has been an inspiration to artists, poets, writers, and musicians on this comprehensive “special interest” experience.

It’s a short, yet scenic drive from the port to the Palace of Count Tolstoy, which now houses the Scientists’ Club of Odessa. The exhibits here include a collection of photographs and furniture which once belonged to Count Mikhail Tolstoy, a cousin of the outstanding Russian writer, Leo Tolstoy.

Next, you will drive to the exquisite Gagarin’s Palace which is home to the Literature Museum. During your guided visit you will learn about the development of literature as you absorb the atmosphere of the 19th century Russian noble family that once lived here. Following your tour of the museum, make your way to the Golden Hall of the Palace where you will be treated to a live musical performance while sipping on local sparkling wine. Afterwards, drive back to the port.

**Special Note:** This tour includes approximately 75 minutes of mild to moderate walking/standing that includes numerous steps. 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, midriffs, and legs must be covered when entering religious sites.

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**NOVOROSSIYSK, RUSSIA**

**NVS501: FOREST TREK TO GEBIUSSKIYE’S 7 WATERFALLS - AUGUST 6, 2021 | $239**

Spend the day discovering the beauty of Gebiuskiye Waterfalls, one of the most popular scenic spots in the Novorossiysk area.

Take a relaxing picturesque drive from the port to the Gebiuyskiye Waterfalls, each unique in its own right. There are seven falls in total with the three highest waterfalls having their own names.

Arriving at the trail head, commence a guided trek to view these marvels of nature. The first fall to be encountered is the 56-foot “Lace” waterfall which derived its name from its unusual shape. Its channel has characteristic twists and turns as it tumbles into a natural stone bowl-shaped pool. The second fall you will come upon is “Vysotsky’s Grotto.” This 20-foot-high stunning fall is named after the famous Soviet poet, film and theater actor, V.S. Vysotsky who often visited the village of Dzhubga and would come to the waterfall to relax in its pristine setting. The last of the falls you will experience is “The Mouth of the Devil” which is also the highest at 66-feet. After you hear the characteristic sound the fall produces when the water passes between limestone slabs, you will understand how it got its name!

Total trekking time through the forest is approximately two hours that covers 2.5 miles. Making your way back to the starting point, rejoin your transportation and drive to a local restaurant for lunch. Afterwards, return to the port.

**Special Note:** This tour includes approximately two hours of moderate to Vigorous hiking that includes inclines, natural, gravel and uneven surfaces. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests or those with physical limitations or other health concerns. Participants should be in good physical condition. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing, sturdy flat walking shoes with a closed toe, a sun cap, sunglasses, and sunscreen. Guests will need to sign a waiver before being allowed to take part in the tour.
Discover the “Hero City” of Novorossiysk with visits to some of its most important landmarks and later, listen to a musical performance before ending your day by indulging in some local sparkling wines at a shoreside winery.

Drive first to the historic battleship ‘Mikhail Kutuzov’ for an exterior visit of this imposing vessel. Commissioned in 1954, she served for many decades in Russia’s Black Sea Fleet until being opened to the public as a museum in 2002.

Traveling via the city center, make your way to the famous Malaya Zemla beachhead where you will find a monument that is dedicated to the Novorossiysk landing in 1943, when Soviet forces managed to secure the beachhead despite a strong counterattack by the Germans. The memorial houses portraits of Soviet heroes and a sculpture that memorializes the paratroopers. The land surrounding the memorial is preserved as it was in WWII, still covered with trenches and shell-holes.

Next, it’s time to familiarize yourself with some Russian folklore and classical music at the Dmitriy Shostakovich Novorossiysk College of Music. Be delighted by a concert of classical Russian music performed by the college’s students, many of whom have gone on to win national and international awards. A wide repertoire of changing compositions will bring to life the depth and cordiality of the Russian heart and soul and leave you with a new appreciation for this genre of music.

Leaving the city behind, enjoy a panoramic drive to Abrau-Durso village. Abrau Lake is a natural lake nestled on a mountainous peninsula. The lake is the largest in North Caucasus and the area is sometimes referred to as the “Russian Switzerland.” Stop for lunch here before heading to the Abrau-Durso Winery which is located on the shores of the lake. During your visit, tour the winery and learn about the history of the wines and how they are classified. Wines have been made in this region for over 140 years and are unique in that they are made according to French technology; however, they are impossible to confuse with any other wines because of their significantly “softer” taste as opposed to classical French Champagne. Discover this for yourself as you are invited to taste 6 varieties of the wines produced here.

Before driving back to the port, have a bit of free time to walk around the lake and take some photos or pick up a few souvenirs.

Special Note: This tour includes approximately three hours of mild to moderate walking/standing that includes numerous steps. 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. It is also recommended to bring a light sweater or jacket as it can be quite cool in the wine cellars.
Day 1
After feasting on some traditional favorites, you will transfer back to the hotel for the night.

After the bunker tour, be treated to dinner in the unique and somewhat mysterious Bunker 42 restaurant, actually located within the depths of the bunker itself.

Watch a special effects imitation of a nuclear missile launch that definitely won't leave you indifferent.

Continuing on, travel to Bunker 42 which was constructed in 1955 as a command post of the strategic nuclear forces of the Soviet Union. This anti-nuclear Convent, Moscow University, the Hill of Glory, and the Cathedral of Christ the Redeemer (if able to enter, please note shorts and sleeveless shirts are not permitted).

The first tsar of the Romanov dynasty, Mikhail Romanov was believed to have been born in this house in 1596. Today, it is a museum devoted to the lifestyle of the Russian nobility during the 16th – 17th centuries. Re-board your coach for a panoramic tour of the city that includes viewing the Novodevichy Convent, Moscow University, the Hill of Glory, and the Cathedral of Christ the Redeemer (if able to enter, please note shorts and sleeveless shirts are not permitted).

Your final stop is at the Dmitriy Shostakovich Novorossiysk College of Music. Be delighted by a concert of classical Russian music performed by the college's students, many of whom have gone on to win national and international awards. A wide repertoire of changing compositions will bring to life the depth and cordiality of the Russian heart and soul and leave you with a new appreciation for this genre of music. Afterwards, you will transfer back to the pier.

Special Note: This tour includes approximately 90 minutes of mild to moderate walking/standing that includes numerous 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; flat walking shoes; a sun cap and sunglasses.

Day 2
Your day starts with an early breakfast at the hotel and then you will tour the city, starting with the Kremlin grounds and Armoury Chamber. No visit to Moscow is complete without spending time exploring this iconic complex that is included as a UNESCO World Cultural and National Heritage Site. For centuries, the Kremlin has been witness to many well-known and tragic events in Russia’s past and as such, is a treasure trove of Russian history. Begin with a tour of the extraordinary, State Armoury, the oldest museum in Russia and home to a vast collection of precious stones, 18th and 19th century jewelry and other priceless artifacts that date back to the 14th century. It is also home to an impressive collection of carriages that once belonged to Russian rulers and dignitaries, precious fabrics, royal gowns, and Faberge eggs. Your time here includes viewing Cathedral Square that consists of the Assumption, Archangel, and Annunciation Cathedrals; the Patriarch’s Palace; and the Ivan the Great Bell Tower complex.

Next, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant and then commence your tour of the city with a visit to the House of Romanov Boyards where the Romanov family lived in the 16th century. The first tsar of the Romanov dynasty, Mikhail Romanov was believed to have been born in this house in 1596. Today, it is a museum devoted to the lifestyle of the Russian nobility during the 16th – 17th centuries. Re-board your coach for a panoramic tour of the city that includes viewing the Novodevichy Convent, Moscow University, the Hill of Glory, and the Cathedral of Christ the Redeemer (if able to enter, please note shorts and sleeveless shirts are not permitted).

Continuing on, travel to Bunker 42 which was constructed in 1955 as a command post of the strategic nuclear forces of the Soviet Union. This anti-nuclear underground facility is located 213 feet under Taganka Square. During your tour, learn how the bunker’s construction serves as protection from the damaging factors of a nuclear explosion and get a sobering look at the seriousness of the risk of a nuclear war. See how staff members operated inside the bunker and watch a special effects imitation of a nuclear missile launch that definitely won’t leave you indifferent.

After the bunker tour, be treated to dinner in the unique and somewhat mysterious Bunker 42 restaurant, actually located within the depths of the bunker itself. After feasting on some traditional favorites, you will transfer back to the hotel for the night.

Day 3
Kick off your final day with breakfast in the hotel and then transfer to the airport for your flight to Sochi. After touchdown, transfer to a local restaurant for
lunch before starting your afternoon of touring this wonderful Black Sea city most recently known for hosting the 2014 Winter Olympics. Begin with a drive up into the green hills that overlook Sochi’s beaches for a visit to Stalin’s Dacha. Nestled amongst towering California pine trees is the imposing two-story villa that was once Joseph Stalin’s secret dacha. The subdued grey-green color on its façade was intentional, serving to camouflage it from prying eyes, unfriendly visitors, or possible artillery attacks from the sea. Built in 1937, this stately residence has its shaded verandahs is now open to the public and serves as a remarkable and historic hotel for well-connected visitors to Sochi. The villa remains nearly as it was in Stalin’s time, with most of its original fixtures still in place. There is even a life-sized wax image of Stalin to be found here, seated at his table before a silver inkpot that was presented to him by Mao Zedong.

Your day draws to a close with a panoramic drive to the port where you will rejoin the ship.

Special Note: This tour includes a mixture of mild to moderate to activity over three days that includes, steps, cobblestone, and uneven surfaces. The tour may not be suitable for wheelchair guests; however, those who do participate must have a collapsible wheelchair, be able to enter and exit the transportation on their own and have a companion to assist them. Those with other physical limitations or health concerns should carefully evaluate their personal situation. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable, smart casual clothing, flat walking shoes with a closed toe; 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.

**SOC501: WATERFALL TREK AND RAFTING THE DRAGON MOUTH - AUGUST 7, 2021 | $259.00**

- **8 HOURS | MEALS: LUNCH**

Spend the day hiking through a lush forest to a secluded grotto, then later, get your adrenaline pumping with some white-water rafting.

Travel from the port to the trail head where you will commence a comfortable hike through a subtropical forest, that makes its way along cliffs that at one time formed the ancient ocean bed. The well-marked path will lead to a beautiful grotto that features a 60-foot waterfall. The shape of the grotto’s entrance resembles an open-mouth dragon and thus, how it got its name. An underground river flows from the “mouth” of the grotto and beside it is a small natural pool. Feel free to take a short dip; however, the water temperature is a chilly 50 degrees, even in summer! From here, transition to the Mzymta River where your rafting adventure takes place. After arriving, receive a safety briefing and then don your suit and equipment, all of which will be provided. Get ready for some fun! Along with your experienced instructor, you will navigate your way down the churning rapids of the river, even passing underneath a famous pedestrian bridge that is suspended nearly 700 feet above the gorge.

Leaving the water, there will be an opportunity for you to change back into your clothes and then make the short walk to a nearby restaurant that serves excellent Caucasian cuisine for your lunch. Afterwards, drive back to Sochi via another route so that you will see a different view of the surrounding landscape. Once back at the harbor, a short, guided walk will allow you to take photos and browse for souvenirs before heading back to the ship.

Special Note: This tour includes approximately 2.5 hours of moderate, physical activity that includes inclines, wooden stairs, natural and uneven surfaces. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests or those with physical limitations or other health concerns. Participants should be in good physical condition. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing; sturdy, flat walking shoes with a closed toe 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.

**SOC502: A TREKKING ADVENTURE OVER 3 PEAKS AND SOCHI’S ALPINE OLYMPIC VILLAGE - AUGUST 7, 2021 | $349.00**

- **10 HOURS | MEALS: LUNCH**

Spend the day trekking in the Caucasian Mountain ridge, hiking between three peaks that rise to heights of over 7,500 feet above sea level.

Drive approximately one-hour from the port to the viewpoint at the Ahshtyisky gorge where your trek will begin. From the viewpoint, walk a short distance to the Mzymta River where you can take some photos before transferring to the cable car station at the Krasniya Polyana Resort. This modern cable car will transport you 7,500 feet to Black Pyramid Peak where you will commence a four-mile hike that transits Alpica Peak. Stop for lunch here and then continue on until reaching Rosa Peak where your trek concludes. The trail that rises above the clouds leads you through clear streams, berry shrubs, a patchwork of alpine flowers and a valley of Rhododendrons. You will most likely also see flocks of wild mountain goats, cows and horses along the way. Drink in spectacular views over the Alpine Olympic Village and the famous Olympic resort Rosa Khutor, which was specially built for the 2014 Winter Olympics. Mountains rising nearly 10,000 feet that some years remain snow-capped all year long, form a dramatic backdrop and make for stunning photos.

After taking time for photos at Rosa Peak, you’ll take the cable car down to the Olympic Village level and re-board your coach for a panoramic tour through the Alpine Olympic Village. Afterwards, drive back to the port in Sochi via a scenic route through the Rosa Valley.

Special Note: This tour includes approximately four hours of moderate to vigorous walking and hiking that includes some steep inclines, natural and uneven surfaces. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests, those with physical limitations or other health concerns. The cable car transfer consists of both enclosed gondolas and open-air chair lifts and therefore, the tour 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 that should include light trousers or shorts in the summer months; sturdy, flat sport shoes or hiking boots with a closed toe; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen. No additional equipment or special skills are required. The use of hiking poles is preferable but not mandatory.

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This all-encompassing full day experience covers all of the major highlights visitors to Sochi won’t want to miss. Be introduced to Russian tea culture, visit historical Stalin’s Dacha, and see sites where the 2014 Winter Olympic Games were held.

The day begins with a drive outside the city to the Dagomys Tea Plantation where you will learn about the culture surrounding the history and production of Russian tea and its importance to the local economy. It is not common for tea to be grown in colder northern climates, but special frost-resistant varieties have been created by Russians and their efforts produce some outstanding teas.

Traveling back to Sochi, you’ll see its historic town center, the Winter Theater, pass along the seaport and Primorsky Boulevard and have a view of Sochi’s magnificent spas that resemble palaces more than health resorts. Then it’s back to the past as you drive up into the green hills that overlook Sochi’s beaches for a visit to Stalin’s Dacha. Nestled amongst towering California pine trees is the imposing two-story villa that was once Joseph Stalin’s secret dacha. The subdued grey-green color on its façade was intentional, serving to camouflage it from prying eyes, unfriendly visitors, or possible artillery attacks from the sea. Built in 1937, this stately residence with its shaded verandahs is now open to the public and serves as a remarkable and historic hotel for well-connected visitors to Sochi. The villa remains nearly as it was in Stalin’s time, with most of its original fixtures still in place. There is even a life-sized wax image of Stalin to be found here, seated at his table before a silver inkpot that was presented to him by Mao Zedong.

Following your visit to the dacha, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant and then return to modern day with a visit to Olympic Park. Take part in a tour conducted by golf cart as you view memorable locations from the 2014 Winter Olympics that include the Olympic Stadium Bolshoy Ice Dome, the Iceberg Skating Palace, Shayba Arena, Adler Arena, Ice Cube Curling Center, and the main Media Center. Included is the first Formula 1 Grand Prix racing circuit in Russia. Time will be allowed for photos at the Olympic Cauldron, Medals Plaza Square, Wall of Champions, the Olympic Rings and in front of several of the venues.

After your visit to Olympic Park, transfer back to the pier.

*Special Note: This tour includes approximately 2.5 hours of moderate walking that includes a few 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; flat walking shoes; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen.*

**SOC302: SOCHI MARQUEE ATTRACTIONS AND OLYMPIC PARK - AUGUST 7, 2021 | $169**

Discover marquee Sochi attractions on this tour that gives you a panoramic tour of the city, visits the renowned Matsesta Spa and then travels to Sochi’s Alpine Olympic Village.

From the port, drive to the majestic Winter Theater, the cultural center of the city where you’ll stop and have an opportunity to snap some photos of its beautiful colonnaded exterior. During this panoramic look at Sochi, you will also see the Russian Orthodox Church of Michael Archangel and Art Square before making your way to the Matsesta Spa. Housed in a palatial building, it’s one of Sochi’s oldest and most popular sulfur-springs spas. The word Matsesta literally means “fire-water” and was named so by the ancient Adygs. The waters here are said to contain over 27 minerals that are considered to be therapeutic for the treatment of several medical conditions.

From here, join the highway to the Olympic mountain venues. The highway itself is part of the Olympic legacy and crosses breath-taking canyons and gorges as it winds its way to the Alpine Olympic Village. On arrival, hop on one of the Olympic Park golf carts and take a tour of some of the Olympic venues where the competitions took place. Included is the Fisht Stadium, the Bolshoy Ice Dome, the Iceberg Skating Palace, the Shayba Arena, the Adler Arena Trade and Exhibition Center, the Ice Cube Curling Center, the Main Media Center and not necessarily related to the Olympics, the first circuit to host a Formula 1 Grand Prix race in Russia.

Following your tour of the Olympic Village, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before traveling back the port.

*Special Note: This tour includes approximately one hour of mild walking that includes a few 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; flat walking shoes; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen.*
Get a glimpse of Sochi via a panoramic drive through the city and then it's up into the lush green hills to explore Stalin's secret dacha before heading to the renowned Matsesta Spa.

A narrated panoramic drive through Sochi starts your experience as you view several notable sites. Then head into the hills above the city that overlook Sochi’s beaches for a visit to Stalin’s Dacha. Nestled amongst towering California pine trees is the imposing two-story villa that was once Joseph Stalin's secret dacha. The subdued grey-green color on its façade was intentional, serving to camouflage it from prying eyes, unfriendly visitors, or possible artillery attacks from the sea. Built in 1937, this stately residence with its shaded verandahs is now open to the public and serves as a remarkable and historic hotel for well-connected visitors to Sochi. The villa remains nearly as it was in Stalin's time, with most of its original fixtures still in place. There is even a life-sized wax image of Stalin to be found here, seated at his table before a silver inkpot that was presented to him by Mao Zedong.

Continue on with a drive to the famous Matsesta Spa, one of the oldest sulfur-springs spas. First opened in 1902, the spa is one of Sochi's most popular and is housed in a palatial building. The waters here are said to contain over 27 minerals, including Sulphur, iodine and bromine which are considered therapeutic in the treatment of some medical conditions. Enjoy time to stroll about and take photos before it's time to drive back to the port.

**Special Note:** This tour includes approximately two hours of mild walking that includes a few 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; flat walking shoes; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen.

**SOC303: A PANORAMIC LOOK AT SOCHI AND STALIN’S SECRET DACHA - AUGUST 7, 2021 | $69**

**SOC310: AN EVENING OF ART, CHAMBER MUSIC AND LOCAL CUISINE - AUGUST 7, 2021 | $199**

Spend a delightful evening at Sochi’s excellent Art Museum where in one of the halls you will be treated to a wonderful performance by the local chamber orchestra and later, enjoy dinner at a nearby restaurant.

Your evening begins with a short drive from the port to the Art Museum. The museum exemplifies the beautiful architecture known as Stalin’s “Empire” style. Founded in 1936, the building first housed the city's administrative offices but was later turned into the Art Museum. Three halls within the museum house exhibitions of art from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. It is within one of these halls that you will be treated to your musical performance. The repertoire includes the compositions of several brilliant composers and is sure to make for a memorable experience.

Afterwards, it's a brief walk to a nearby restaurant where you can indulge your taste buds with a tasty dinner of local favorites. Once dinner is concluded, drive back to the port.

**Special Note:** This tour includes under one hour of mild walking/standing that includes a few steps. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests. Smart, casual dress is requested. Shorts, t-shirts, and sandals are not permitted.
Looking for something different to do while in Sochi? Come explore Vorontsovskaya Cave, the largest and most interesting of the Vorontsovskaya Cave Complex.

Travel from the port through picturesque forest scenery to the starting point for your cave exploration. On arrival, it’s a 45-minute forest walk along a dirt track that includes a slight ascent, to reach the cave entrance. Once there, you will be joined by a professional speleologist who will be your guide as you negotiate your way through the cave. Be captivated by uniquely formed stalactites and stalagmites and see the cave's subterranean river. The largest hall within the cave is named after the Greek deity Prometheus who legend claims, served out punishment for providing fire to humans by being chained to nearby Mt. Fisht. Also, within the cave, trails of prehistoric men have been found along with some of their remains and the remains of a prehistoric bear. Further explorations of the cave have also uncovered archaeological finds from different eras.

Following your cave visit, transfer to a local restaurant for a traditional Caucasian lunch before driving back to Sochi. Arriving in Sochi, enjoy a 1-hour walking tour of the historical center during which you can take photos and purchase souvenirs before heading back to the pier.

Special Note: This tour includes approximately 3.5 hours of mild to moderate walking that includes inclines, stairs, natural and uneven surfaces. Guests are cautioned that some of the surfaces can be slippery. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests, those with physical limitations or other health concerns. Participants should be in reasonably good physical condition and able to walk for several hours. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing; sturdy, flat walking shoes with a closed toe and non-slip sole that can get wet, and a bring a light sweater or jacket as it can be cool within the cave.

SOC304: STALIN’S SECRET DACHA AND GASTRONOMIC MASTER CLASS - AUGUST 8, 2021 | $199PP

Experience Sochi’s illustrious past with a visit to Stalin’s secret dacha and then learn about traditional Georgian dishes at a legendary restaurant.

A narrated panoramic drive through Sochi starts your experience as you view several notable sites and stop for an exterior visit at the Winter Palace. Then head into the hills above the city that overlook Sochi’s beaches for a visit to Stalin’s Dacha. Nestled amongst towering California pine trees is the imposing two-story villa that was once Joseph Stalin’s secret dacha. The subdued grey-green color on its façade was intentional, serving to camouflage it from prying eyes, unfriendly visitors, or possible artillery attacks from the sea. Built in 1937, this stately residence with its shaded verandahs is now open to the public and serves as a remarkable and historic hotel for well-connected visitors to Sochi. The villa remains nearly as it was in Stalin’s time, with most of its original fixtures still in place. There is even a life-sized wax image of Stalin to be found here, seated at his table before a silver inkpot that was presented to him by Mao Zedong.

Next, travel to the elite Kavkazsky Aul restaurant for a masterclass in traditional Georgian dishes such as khinkali (dumplings), pkhali (a traditional Georgian dish of chopped and minced vegetables combined with ground walnuts, vinegar, garlic, and herbs), and khachapuri (an egg and cheese filled bread). Afterwards, before returning to the port, sit down and enjoy lunch while being entertained with a folkloric performance.

Special Note: This tour includes approximately two hours of mild walking/standing that includes a few 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; flat walking shoes; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen.
Find yourself immersed in a beautiful forest of Yew trees and Boxwoods on a nature trail that delivers more than just a walking experience.

Drive from the port to the village of Khosta where your five-mile hike begins. Accompanied by your guide, see unique and legendary natural attractions such as the White Rocks of the Khosta River, a beautiful waterfall, an ancient fortress, a cave, and a Beech glade. All of these will make for an exceptional hiking experience that goes beyond the ordinary.

Following your hike, enjoy an open-air lunch alongside the Khosta River, accompanied by a delightful folk performance. Afterwards, drive back to the port in Sochi.

Special Note: This tour includes approximately three hours of moderate hiking/walking that includes inclines, natural and uneven surfaces. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests or those with physical limitations or other health concerns. Participants should be in good physical condition. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing; sturdy, flat walking shoes with a closed toe that can get wet; a sun cap; sunglasses; insect repellant and sunscreen.

Russian tea has a rich history and is an integral part of Russian culture. Tea is not generally thought to thrive in a climate this far north but thrive it does and especially at the Dagomys Tea Plantation, the most northerly in Europe.

Begin with a panoramic drive through Sochi that has you viewing the Russian Orthodox Church of Michael Archangel, Art Square, and the Winter Theater amongst other highlights. Then, head out of town to the Dagomys Tea Plantation. This historic plantation is synonymous with tea in Russia. On arrival, enjoy walking about the plantation as a local agronomist explains how the tea is grown and processed. Before leaving, you’ll be invited to take part in a tea tasting that is accompanied by a snack of local tea cakes and a lively folkloric performance.

Continuing, return to Sochi and drive to Riviera Park, home to numerous amusement rides, games, art galleries and stately magnolia trees that were planted there by Russian cosmonauts. A short stop here allows time to stroll about and take some photos before rejoining your coach and transferring back to the port.

Special Note: This tour includes approximately 90 minutes of mild walking/standing with a few steps to negotiate. 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 weather appropriate comfortable clothing; flat walking shoes; a sun cap and sunglasses.
Discover some of Georgia’s most significant attractions with visits to Petra Fortress, its new historical complex, and the Kobuleti Local Lore Museum. Later, delve into Georgian cuisine with a class at the museum.

Leave the pier for a scenic panoramic drive to Petra Fortress. Situated on a rocky hill along the sea, the location is breathtaking and features sweeping views of the sea. Strategically built amongst Georgian rock formations in 535 A.D. (the Greek name Petra means stone or rock), it was considered an almost inaccessible fortress. While here, you will also get to be amongst the first to explore the new historical complex which includes a citadel, remains of a medieval town and palace, antique bath and the soldiers’ housing. This is also the place you will be treated to an informative masterclass on Georgian cuisine, after which you can indulge in some tastings.

When your class and tasting concludes, make the relaxing drive back to the port.

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

Visit Batumi’s diverse Botanical Garden that offers up a magnificent view of the sea and after a traditional snack with wine, explore Batumi with a combination walking and panoramic tour of the city’s main attractions.

Leave the port and drive to one of the most visited attractions in Batumi, the Batumi Botanical Garden. The garden is one of the largest and in post-Soviet Union times and boasts a rich diversity of plants and trees. It really has no comparison in that, plants that are endemic to completely different climatic and landscape zones co-exist here, side-by-side.

After exploring the walking trails at the Garden, drive to a local restaurant where you are treated to a traditional Georgian snack such as Khachapuri, a dish of cheese-filled bead, accompanied by a glass of local wine. Making your experience even more authentic, there will be a live musical performance.

A short panoramic drive brings you to Piazza Square, considered one of the most beautiful places in Batumi. While the name is distinctly Italian and therefore a little incongruous for Georgia, when it comes to architecture in Batumi, anything goes! The square is quite expansive and is surrounded by the Piazza complex that includes a hotel, restaurants, cave and pub. Some distinguishing features are its mosaics and stained-glass art. It also hosts outdoor concerts by world famous musician. Walk to the over 150-year-old St. Nicholas Church for a visit before rejoining your coach and driving to European Square for a photo stop.

Your tour ends with a panoramic drive back to the pier, stopping for photos at Prymorski Boulevard.

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

Soak up the local atmosphere on this walking tour that gives a good overview of Sinop, its history, architecture, and culture.

Take a short walk from the pier to the Sinop Castle and Sinop Castle Walls for an exterior visit. Still dominating the harbor, this eighth-century A.D. fortification was built by immigrants and although much of it is in ruins, it still makes for an interesting glimpse into Sinop’s past.

Your walk continues to the Alaaddin Mosque, a 13th century mosque that is a good example of Selcuk architecture. There will be time for photos before heading to a nearby restaurant where you will be treated to a local pastry and traditional Turkish tea. Afterwards, walk to your final stop, the Sinop Museum.

Special Note: This tour includes approximately 90 minutes of moderate walking/standing and includes numerous steps and uneven surfaces. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests or those with walking difficulties. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing; flat walking shoes; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen.
Take advantage of this perfect opportunity to experience Sinop’s natural beauty on this tour that travels into a forested nature park and visits Turkey’s only fjord.

A scenic drive brings you through a landscape of lush trees and foliage to the Hamsilos Fjord, the one and only fjord in Turkey. Serving as a natural harbor, the fjord is one of the most beautiful places in northern Turkey and is surrounded by a nature park and lush forest. Once you have arrived, your guide will give you a brief narrative about the area and its history and then you are free to explore on your own.

From here, drive to the Pasha Bastion, a semi-circular coastal fortification whose original purpose was to protect against attacks from the Black Sea. During your visit you can see some of the original cannons and enjoy some snacks and refreshments.

Before driving back to the pier, stop at Balatlar Church, a former Roman temple that was converted to a church in 660 A.D. It stands as an excellent example of Byzantium brick and stone masonry. In 2009, a stone chest was excavated from within the church which is believed to hold stored fragments of the cross on which Jesus Christ was crucified. The chest was named “Holystone” by the Christian world and now is on exhibit in the Sinop Museum.

Special Note: This tour includes approximately 90 minutes of moderate walking/standing that includes steps, walking over a wooden pathways and uneven surfaces. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests or those with walking difficulties. Participants should be in reasonably good physical condition. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing; flat, closed-toe walking shoes with a non-slip sole; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen. Shoulders, legs, and midriffs must be covered when entering religious sites.

**AMASRA, TURKEY**

**AMR301: COLORFUL AMASRA TOWN AND ITS BLENDED RICH HERITAGE** - AUGUST 11, 2021 | $69 pp

4 HOURS | MEALS: NONE

Discover Amasra’s key historical locations while drinking in the local atmosphere on this delightful walking tour.

A small Black Sea port town formerly known as Amastris, Amasra’s rich heritage includes Roman, Byzantine, and Genoese past inhabitants as evidenced by the Amasra Castle, your first stop. This is probably most notable on the north side of the castle which served as a Citadel. The enclosed area is now mostly residential, but you can still find some interesting carved relics that remain on some of the walls here. There is also a restored 9th century Byzantine Chapel and a church turned into a mosque that you will see.

Next, walk to the Amasra Archaeological Museum where you will find a variety of items on display that date back centuries and were found both on land and in the sea surrounding this area. Afterwards, make your way to a local tea house where you will take some refreshment. This makes for a perfect opportunity to interact with the locals in Amasra as they go about their daily lives. Following this, you have the option of remaining in town to further explore on your own or walking back to the tender pier and returning to the ship.

Special Note: This tour includes approximately three hours of moderate walking/standing that includes inclines, steps, and uneven surfaces. 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 weather appropriate comfortable clothing; flat walking shoes with a closed toe; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen. Shoulders and legs must be covered when entering religious sites.
Day 4

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 have dinner and spend the night.

Day 3

Start the day with an optional early morning 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. First, you will head 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.

Day 4

Your final day starts with breakfast at the hotel and then a transfer to the airport where you will catch your flight to Kepez. On arrival, transfer directly to the hotel for check-in and overnight.

Travel to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Safranbolu for a fascinating look at this city that once served as an important trading center.

While the drive out to Safranbolu takes a bit of time (60 minutes), the passing colorful scenery makes the journey interesting and the time pass quickly.

A must-see destination for anyone visiting the area, Safranbolu was the earliest town in Turkey to realize that preserving its old town could serve to draw tourism to the area. The success of Safranbolu’s efforts later inspired many other surrounding regions to similarly restore their own historic districts and preserve their levels of authenticity. Safranbolu itself is famous for its typical Ottoman houses and streets which led to its qualification as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The town’s key role in the caravan trade spanned many centuries, first developing as a trading center after the Turkish conquest in the 11th century. By the 13th century, it had grown into an important caravan station. The town’s layout is a testament to its organic growth in response to economic expansion, and its buildings are representative of its evolving socio-economic structure up to the disappearance of the traditional caravan routes and beyond.

Your time exploring the city starts with a visit to the old Agora and Cinci Han and then afterwards, enjoy some traditional tea and a Turkish pastry.

Rejoining your coach, drive back to Amasra, stopping along the way for a visit at the 18th-century Incekaya aqueduct. Constructed of rubble stone, it is a marvel of ancient engineering.

Special Note: This tour includes approximately three hours of moderate walking/standing that includes inclines, steps, and uneven surfaces. 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 weather appropriate comfortable clothing; flat walking shoes with a closed toe; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen. Shoulders and legs must be covered when entering religious sites.
**IST506MS: HIDDEN TREASURES AND PAMUKKALE HOT SPRINGS - AUGUST 12, 2021 | $1,750pp**

Off-the-beaten track in Turkey are hidden archaeological wonders that few visitors have the opportunity to explore. This experience delves into the lesser known, yet equally impressive sites of Sardes, Aphrodisias, Hierapolis and Sagalassos. There is also time at Pamukkale, where the stark white limestone basins of brilliant blue mineral springs beckon you to dip your toes. Overnight stays in Izmir, Pamukkale and the City of Roses complement this program that has you rejoining the ship in Kepez.

**Day 1** Disembark the ship in Istanbul and drive to Manisa where you will visit Sardes, once the flourishing capital of the ancient Lydian kingdom of the seventh century BCE. Strategically located on a spur of land at the foot of Mount Tmolus, it commanded the central plain of the Hermus Valley and was the western terminus of the Persian Royal Road. It was also the first city where gold and silver coins were minted. Following lunch, continue on with the scenic drive to Izmir where you will enjoy dinner and a panoramic tour of the area before retiring to your hotel for the night.

**Day 2** Following breakfast in the hotel, depart Izmir for Aphrodisias, one of the most important ancient sites in Turkey after Ephesus. It was during the Roman period around the year two BC that Aphrodisias was named after Aphrodite and kept gaining importance. One of the inscriptions on the theater’s stage walls mentions a golden Eros statue gifted by Caesar to Aphrodite.

Located near a marble quarry, the marble from here was widely used during the Hellenistic and Roman periods, and Aphrodisias became famous in the Roman world for its marble statues. The city was favored by both Julius Caesar and Emperor Augustus who gave it autonomy and tax-free status, stating it “the one city from all of Asia that I have selected to be my own.”

Following lunch at a local establishment, you will drive to Pamukkale where you will have dinner and overnight.

**Day 3** Early risers have the option to partake in a sunrise hot air balloon ride over Pamukkale. Afterwards, enjoy breakfast and then it’s time to tour the Pamukkale hot springs and Hierapolis ruins.

Pamukkale literally translates to ‘Cotton Castle’ and the brilliant white terraces of petrified limestone certainly conjure up that image. Within the stepped terraces are warm pools of brilliant blue mineral-rich water that invite visitors to dip their toes in and where Romans once bathed. There is also the famous “Cleopatra Pool” that Marc Anthony had built and gifted to her. An earthquake toppled the structure over the pool, but today you can still swim amongst the submerged columns.

What adds to any visit to Pamukkale is the opportunity to also visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Hierapolis. Hierapolis also means the sacred city and remains here include the Necropolis, the Temple of Oktokonus, a theater that features reliefs depicting the mythology of Apollo and Artemis, the Apollo sacred site, Roman Baths, and many other significant ruins.

Lunch will be served at an establishment in Denizli, after which there is a visit to Salda Lake before continuing on to Isparta (Egirdir) – nicknamed The City of Roses. Isparta is famous for its roses and rose products. The world’s largest producer of the Damascena rose, it exports rose oil around the world (including providing it to the grand mosque at Mecca) and also hosts a 2-day Rose Festival. After check-in at your hotel, enjoy dinner and a leisurely evening.

**Day 4** Your day commences with an early morning breakfast at the hotel and departure for Sagalassos, one of the best-preserved ancient cities in Turkey that was once the most important city of ancient Pisidia. Conquered by Alexander the Great in 333 BC on his way to Persia, it flourished after joining the Roman Empire in 28 BC.

Following your visit, you will make the 90-minute drive to Kepez where you will rejoin 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.

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IST302: BYZANTINE TREASURES – ISTANBUL’S MOST ICONIC LANDMARKS - AUGUST 12, 2021 | $75

5 HOURS | MEALS: NONE

Istanbul’s Byzantine past comes alive on this tour that visits its most iconic highlights and includes time for shopping at the inimitable Grand Bazaar.

Travel first to Hippodrome Square, location of the famous Egyptian Obelisk, Obelisk of Constantine, Serpentine Column, and the German Fountain, which was an important symbol of the close relationship between the Ottoman Empire and Germany at the beginning of the 20th century.

Next, make the short walk 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.

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.

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.

IST303: ULTIMATE ISTANBUL - ESSENTIAL HIGHLIGHTS AND GRAND BAZAAR - AUGUST 12, 2021 | $145

8 HOURS | MEALS: LUNCH

Explore both the Byzantine and Ottoman highlights of Istanbul on this comprehensive tour that showcases some of the city's most remarkable attractions, visits the famous Grand Bazaar and includes lunch at a notable restaurant.

Start by driving from the port to Hippodrome Square, location of the famous Egyptian Obelisk, Obelisk of Constantine, Serpentine Column and the German Fountain, which was an important symbol of the close relationship between the Ottoman Empire and Germany at the beginning of the 20th century.

Next, make the short walk to the incredible Blue Mosque. Completed in 1616, it is a triumph of harmony, proportion and elegance. The Mosque's colorful 260 windows enable the sunlight to reach inside and the blue Iznik Tiles that cover the walls are what gave the mosque 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.

IST306: ISTANBUL’S OTTOMAN INFLUENCE – THE BLUE MOSQUE, TOPKAPI PALACE AND GRAND BAZAAR - AUGUST 12, 2021 | $75

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.

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; 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.

IST510PST: MAGICAL, MYSTICAL CAPPADOCIA - AUGUST 12, 2021 | $999

4 DAYS / 3 NIGHTS | MEAL: YES

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

Day 1 Disembark the ship and head to the airport for your flight from Istanbul 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 cones and 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.

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 2 If you like, you can start 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 out 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 a mild walk along a leafy nature trail dotted with numerous cave churches you can explore. Then, following lunch in the picturesque town of Bell 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 where dinner is on your own and the remainder of the evening is at your leisure.

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ACTIVITY LEVEL: MILD  ACTIVITY LEVEL: MODERATE  ACTIVITY LEVEL: VIGOROUS
Day 3 Begin with breakfast at the hotel and then a panoramic transfer to the airport where you will catch your flight back to Istanbul. On arrival, check-in to your hotel and have the rest of the day to explore Istanbul on your own. Dinner is in the hotel.

Day 4 Your final day you will check-out of the hotel and transfer to the airport to catch your International flight home.

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, midriffs, and legs must be covered when entering any religious sites. All shopping and/or carpet demonstrations are optional and at the guest's discretion.
ATHENS (PIRAEUS), GREECE

- PIR510PRE-DBL: Spectacular Peloponnese Adventure Challenge | July 28, 2021 | Price: $1,999
- PIR401PRE: Experience Athens’ Historical Past & Vibrant Present | July 28, 2021 | Price: $2,250

EPHESUS (KUSADASI), TURKEY

- KUS302: Ephesus Landmarks & The Terrace Houses - Homes of the Wealthy Ephesians | July 29, 2021 | Price: $85
- KUS311: The Ancient Ionian City of Miletus & the Sanctuary of Didyma | July 29, 2021 | Price: $79

NESSEBAR, BULGARIA

- NES501: Strandzha Mountain by Jeep and Eco Trekking Adventure | July 31, 2021 | Price: $129pp
- NES302: Explore Nessebar's Old Town on Foot – A UNESCO World Heritage Site | July 31, 2021 | Price: $75
- NES303: A Fusion of Bulgarian Food and Wine & Live Musical Performance | July 31, 2021 | Price: $135
- NES305: Discover the Heart of Nessebar on Foot & Step Back in Time at an Ethnographic Complex | July 31, 2021 | Price: $75

BUCHAREST (CONSTANTA), ROMANIA

- CND505MS: MAX SHORE: Bucharest, Kiev and Chernobyl - Three Unforgettable Destinations | August 1, 2021 | COMPLIMENTARY SOLD OUT ($3,499 Value)
- CND303: The Landmarks of Bucharest – Little Paris of the East | August 1, 2021 | Price: $199
- CND304: Romania’s Intriguing History & Culture: Constanta Landmarks, Folk Art & Wine Tasting | August 1, 2021 | Price: $89
- CND305: Explore the Natural Paradise of the Danube Delta | August 1, 2021 | Price: $175
- CND307: Constanta’s Marquee Attractions | August 1, 2021 | Price: $119

ODESSA, UKRAINE

- ODS501OV: The Chernobyl Event – 35 Years Later | August 2, 2021 | Price: $1,750
- ODS306: A Special Evening Performance at the Spectacular Odessa Opera House and Ballet Theater | August 2, 2021 | Price: $149
- ODS309: Delve into Odessa's Jewish Heritage | August 2, 2021 | Price: $99
- ODS311: Panoramic Odessa – Classic Sites and Monuments | August 3, 2021 | Price: $75
- ODS305: Historic Akkerman Fortress – A Southwestern Ukraine Military Bastion and Winery Visit | August 3, 2021 | Price: $229
- ODS310: The Cultural Heritage of Odessa’s Palaces & Exclusive Recital | August 3, 2021 | Price: $129

MORE EXCURSIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

NAME
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BOOKING #
NOTES

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NOVOROSSIYSK, RUSSIA
- NVS050OVD: Comprehensive Moscow with Novorossiysk and Sochi Overviews | August 6-8, 2021 | Price: $2,599 STANDARD ROOM | $2,719 PREMIUM ROOM

SOCHI, RUSSIA
- SOC050: Discover Sinop's Cultural Landmarks on Foot | August 10, 2021 | Price: COMPLIMENTARY OPTION OR $89
- SOC030: Uncover the Natural Forested Beauty of Sinop and Hamsilos Fjord | August 10, 2021 | Price: COMPLIMENTARY OPTION OR $95

MESADA, TURKEY
- AMR050: Colorful Amasra Town and Its Blended Rich Heritage | August 11, 2021 | Price: COMPLIMENTARY OPTION OR $69
- AMR030: The UNESCO World Heritage City of Safranbolu – A Historical Trading Center | August 11 | Price: COMPLIMENTARY OPTION OR $69

ISTANBUL, TURKEY
- IST050MS: Mystical Cappadocia | August 12, 2021 | Price: $1,750
- IST050MS: Hidden Treasures and Pamukkale Hot Springs | August 12, 2021 | Price: $1,750
- IST030: Byzantine Treasures – Istanbul's Most Iconic Landmarks | August 12, 2021 | Price: COMPLIMENTARY OPTION OR $75
- IST030: Istanbul's Ottoman Influence – The Blue Mosque, Topkapi Palace and Grand Bazaar | August 12, 2021 | Price: COMPLIMENTARY OPTION OR $75
- IST5010PST: Magical, Mystical Cappadocia | August 12, 2021 | Price: $999

BASILICCA, TURKEY
- BSM050: Beautiful Makhuntseti Waterfall and Exhilarating River Rafting | August 9, 2021 | Price: $99
- BSM050: The Impressive Ruins of Petra Fortress, Master Class in Georgian Cuisine and the Kobuleti Museum | August 9, 2021 | Price: COMPLIMENTARY OPTION OR $65
- BSM030: Batumi's Remarkable Botanical Garden and Marquee Sites | August 9, 2021 | Price: COMPLIMENTARY OPTION OR $65