



Treasures of the Aegean & Timeless Traditions

July 2018

In Greece, the cradle of Western civilization beckons to you with its proud monuments, sun-drenched isles, and friendly people. Join us on this Small Ship Cruise Tour and discover the enduring treasures of antiquity, from the Parthenon in Athens to the Temple of Apollo and the monasteries of Meteora.

Then enjoy a Greek island cruise aboard Grand Circle's private small ship, which holds two groups of just 25 travelers. Explore millennia-old settlements layered deeply in myth and history. Visit Delos, birthplace of Apollo...volcanic Santorini...bustling Syros...and Kusadasi, gateway to ancient Ephesus. Crown your Mediterranean cruise with two nights in Istanbul, Turkey's cosmopolitan capital, where East meets West and ancient culture enlivens modern life – all while traveling in style with your friends from Southern Exposure!

REMINDER: Space for this special journey is available on a first-come, first-serve basis and is truly limited. To reserve your place today, please call the Southern Exposure office at (269) 962-1255. If you haven't experienced a Southern Exposure travel adventure before, feel free to ask questions or stop by for a friendly chat.



Snapshot Itinerary: Treasures of the Aegean 2018

This special small cruise ship travel adventure in July 2018 offers you an in-depth and up-close look at the Aegean's rich history, culture and natural beauty. Here's a quick look at our itinerary. Read on for additional details for each day.

Day 1 – Depart U.S.

Day 2 – Athens, Greece

Day 3 – Arachova / Greek Cooking Class

Day 4 – Arachova / Delphi

Day 5 – Arachova / Kalambaka

Day 6 – Kalambaka / Meteora / Home-Hosted Dinner

Day 7 – Pireas / Embark Ship

Day 8 – Syros / Mykonos

Day 9 – Delos / Naxos

Day 10 – Naxos / Island Dinner

Day 11 – Santorini / Amorgos

Day 12 – Amorgos / Patmos

Day 13 – Patmos / Kusadasi, Turkey / Captain's Farewell Dinner

Day 14 – Kusadasi / Disembark ship / Ephesus / Carpet Weaving Lecture / Istanbul Foundation Visit

Day 15 – Istanbul

Day 16 – Istanbul / Return to the U.S.

For more information, please read on or call the Southern Exposure office during business hours at **(269) 965-1255**. Or e-mail us at: southernexposurefarm@comcast.net.

Space for this special journey is available on a first-come, first-serve basis and is truly limited. Please don't wait to make your reservations for this very special overseas adventure with your friends from Southern Exposure and Grand Circle Travel. *Join us!*





Detailed Itinerary: The Aegean 2018

Day 1 – Depart U.S. On to Flight to Athens, Greece

We will travel via luxury coach from Southern Exposure Farm to Detroit Metro Airport, where we will board our evening flight to Athens, Greece.

Day 2 – Athens, Greece

A Grand Circle representative will meet you at the Athens airport and assist with your transfer to your Athens hotel to join passengers coming from the Ancient Glories: Olympia, Nafplion & Athens pre-trip extension. This afternoon, enjoy a walk to get acquainted with the area around the hotel. Then gather for a Welcome Drink and Briefing, before dinner on your own.

Day 3 – Arachova / Greek Cooking Class

After breakfast, travel overland across the Thessaly Plain before climbing the slopes of Mount Parnassus. Enjoy lunch on your own along the way. Later, you'll reach the picturesque mountain village of Arachova where you'll stay tonight.

A healthful Mediterranean style of cooking, Greek cuisine is popular throughout the world, with its reliance on olive oil, grains, wine, fish, and fresh fruits and vegetables. Late this afternoon, learn how to prepare classic Greek specialties during a special cooking lesson, an exclusive Discovery Series event. Then, enjoy an authentic taste when you and your fellow travelers gather for dinner.

Day 4 – Arachova / Delphi

Today, absorb the majesty of ancient Delphi, including the Temple of Apollo where the oracle once prophesied. This ancient sanctuary is beautifully set in a landscape fit for a god, at the foot of a mountain with a vista over olive groves stretching to the Bay of Itea. This guided tour includes up to two hours of walking, with several sets of stairs (up to 60 stairs, consecutively).

Those entering the sanctuary of Apollo in ancient times first purified themselves with the water of the Castalia Fountain, situated in the area. As you approach the Temple of Apollo, you'll walk the Sacred Way used by ancient Greeks such as the historian Plutarch, who was a priest of Apollo at Delphi. See treasuries built here by the Athenians, the Thebans, the Corinthians, and the Syracusans – the great powers of their day – including the theater, built to seat 5,000 people, from which it's possible to get an amazing view if you climb to the top row. We also see the famous Tholos at the sanctuary of Athena Pronaia. Located a short distance from the main ruins, the circular structure was constructed between 380 and 360 BC and once consisted of 20 Doric columns, three of which have been restored.

You'll also visit the recently renovated Delphi Archaeological Museum. The unmatched holdings here include the larger-than-life bronze Charioteer, dating to about 470 BC and one of the finest surviving bronze works of antiquity. The museum is filled with other



masterpieces from the Archaic, Classical, and Roman periods, including scenes of the gods watching the Trojan War, a nine-statue family monument from the fourth century BC, and a sculpture of Roman Emperor Hadrian's beloved friend Antinoos. Then, enjoy the rest of the afternoon to make your own discoveries. Dinner is on your own this evening.

Day 5 – Arachova / Kalambaka

This morning, travel overland through a landscape studded with rocky pinnacles to Kalambaka. Enjoy lunch on your own en route. After your afternoon arrival, enjoy time at leisure or make your own discoveries. This evening, enjoy an included dinner at your hotel.

Day 6 – Kalambaka / Meteora / Home-Hosted Dinner

This morning, ride by coach to the towering rock formations, on top of which are built the famous monasteries of Meteora. You'll enjoy breathtaking views from this unique setting and visit the monasteries, some of which date to the 16th century. Meteora means "suspended in the air," and these astonishing retreats are indeed perched atop pinnacles that rise about 1,000 feet from the valley floor. For centuries, the monasteries served as Christian redoubts while the Ottoman Turks ruled Greece, and the monasteries are still in operation today.

After lunch on your own in the provincial town of Kalambaka, Thessaly, you'll discover a Byzantine

tradition during a visit to a nearby icon-painting workshop. This evening, enjoy dinner hosted by a local Greek family in their home, an exclusive Discovery Series event.

Day 7 – Piraeas / Embark Ship

Explore the Aegean Sea aboard a small private cruise ship. After breakfast, begin your transfer to Piraeus. You will have time for lunch on your own before you embark on your cruise. This evening, meet your crew and enjoy a Welcome Drink. Enjoy dinner onboard, followed by Greek dancing. During the night, your ship sails toward the island of Syros.

Day 8 – Syros / Mykonos

This morning, explore Syros – whose main port town, Ermoupolis, is the capital of the Cyclades. This is the largest of the island ports that you'll visit. In the late 19th century, it was the main port for all of Greece, and it has a wealth of beautifully restored historic buildings including old mansions and churches. Enjoy a walking tour and discover the charms of this lively traditional Aegean port town. Here, you'll also taste one of Greece's favorite sweets, loukoumi, a gelatin candy dusted with powdered sugar.

Have lunch onboard, then cruise to Mykonos. You'll make an afternoon visit to this vacation spot popular with the international jet set. Enjoy dinner together onboard and moor for the night in Mykonos.



Day 9 – Delos / Naxos

This morning, take a short cruise to Delos. The mythological birthplace of Apollo and Artemis, Delos has been settled for more than 5,000 years. You'll stroll among the restored remnants of markets, towers, and fountains, and see the preserved mosaics that earned this outstanding preserve of antiquities designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

After lunch onboard, cruise to Naxos, arriving late this afternoon. This is the largest and most mountainous island in the Cyclades, topped by 3,294-foot Mount Zas. Regarded by the ancient Greeks as being sacred to Dionysus, Naxos still produces excellent wine. In Greek legend, this was also the island where Theseus cruelly abandoned Ariadne, breaking his promise to marry her in return for the help she had given him in defeating the Minotaur. Enjoy dinner aboard ship again this evening.

Day 10 – Naxos / Island Dinner

Ride across Naxos to the village of Kournochari, then hike to Melanes – a valley hamlet rich with fruit and olive trees. You'll visit a garden where a half-finished ancient kouros sculpture lies on the ground. This kind of statue of a young man from Greece's Archaic period may have been intended to portray a guardian of Zeus, and was modeled after the formal style of ancient Egyptian sculpture. From here, transfer to the town of Naxos and continue on foot to the harbor, where you'll return to the ship for lunch. Your afternoon is free to relax or to explore Naxos further on your own.

Gather in the early evening for a bus ride to some homes of local residents, where you'll enjoy a special island dinner, an exclusive Discovery Series event. Later, back on the ship, you'll be treated to a lively dance performance by members of the island's folk-dancing association. Your ship charts a course toward Santorini overnight.

Day 11 – Santorini / Amorgos

Alight from your ship this morning and take in the exquisite beauty of Santorini. This remarkable island is the remnant of the rim of a volcanic caldera, much of which was blasted away by a huge eruption in 1600 BC. The bay enclosed by the crescent is nearly 1,300 feet deep, and our destination, the village of Fira, is perched on the caldera rim, about 1,000 feet above the water. You may choose your method of ascent: a funicular (cable car) or a traditional donkey ride. In this spectacularly situated town, gleaming white houses look down hundreds of feet to the bay. You'll visit a local museum and learn about the excavations at Akrotiri – an ancient Minoan city buried by volcanic ash – during your tour here. You'll also visit the picturesque village of Oia and learn about the fascinating ancient history of this area. Please note: Should the museum be closed, your visit will be substituted by an alternate activity.

You may enjoy some free time in Santorini, then enjoy dinner aboard the ship this evening. Then cruise to Amorgos, our next port, an elongated island which winds like a serpent through the sea.



Day 12 – Amorgos / Patmos

After breakfast this morning, depart for the Hozoviotissa Monastery. The pride of Amorgos, the monastery was built into the cliff face to honor what the locals call “The Grace of Panagia,” more commonly known as “The Virgin Mary.” Perched hundreds of feet above the water, the monastery’s interior is lined with icons, paintings, and collected treasures, and is presided over by monks.

After your monastery visit, enjoy free time in Amorgos. Settled since the fourth century BC, this unspoiled island owed its prosperity during ancient times to its proximity to the coast of Asia Minor. Its name derives from the Mourgos, a rare plant used to extract the red dye for royal garments. You’ll have the rest of the morning to experience the traditional ambiance of this undiscovered gem. After lunch back aboard ship, cruise to the isle of Patmos, arriving in time for dinner onboard.

Day 13 – Patmos / Kusadasi, Turkey / Captain’s Farewell Dinner

This morning, explore the beautiful and rugged island of Patmos, named a Sacred Island by the Greek government in 1981 and long a popular pilgrimage site. According to Roman legend, the island received its name when Poseidon stepped on it (patima being Greek for “step”).

The island served as exile for an important figure from history: St. John the Evangelist, one of Jesus’ twelve apostles. At the time, the island’s near inaccessibility

made it a perfect site for the banishment of criminals and political agitators. Exiled from Ephesus, St. John lived in a grotto beneath the Temple of Diana for 18 months, between AD 95 and 97. It was there that he was said to have received his vision of fire and brimstone and dictated the Book of Revelation. He also wrote the Fourth Gospel during this period.

During this morning’s included tour of this UNESCO World Heritage Site, you’ll visit the Holy Cave of the Apocalypse, where St. John lived and worked. If you see cracks in the walls of the cave, consider that they are said to have appeared when the apostle heard the voice of the Lord. You’ll also explore the eleventh-century Monastery of St. John, built by the monk Christodolous on the ruins of the Temple of Diana. Fortified over the next two centuries to protect it against marauding pirates, this imposing monastery is visible virtually everywhere on the island and has remained in continuous operation for more than 900 years. You will see some priceless religious relics during your visit here, and be sure to listen for the remarkable acoustics inside the main chapel. Enjoy breathtaking views of the Aegean in Hora, the 17th-century town of dazzling white houses that tumbles down the hillside surrounding the citadel.

After lunch back aboard the ship, enjoy some free time on Patmos before your ship sets sail for Kusadasi, arriving in the evening. Enjoy a Captain’s Farewell Cocktail and Dinner as your ship remains moored at Kusadasi.



Day 14 – Kusadasi / Disembark Ship / Ephesus / Carpet Weaving Lecture / Istanbul Foundation Visit

Disembark your small ship in Kusadasi this morning and head out to probe the ruins of nearby Ephesus – one of the best-preserved and most extensive (2,000 acres) classical Greco-Roman cities in Asia. Located 60 miles from Izmir, Ephesus dates to at least 1300 BC and was home to the early philosopher Heraclitus. As the commercial center and capital city of Roman Asia Minor, it was once the fourth-largest city in the Roman Empire, boasting a population numbering more than 300,000.

One ancient legend attributes the founding of Ephesus to the Amazons of Greek mythology. Another credits the Athenian Androclus, who received advice from an oracle to establish a colony at the “place of the fish and the boar.” And so, when he and his crew saw a wild pig charge out of underbrush set ablaze inadvertently by locals grilling fish, he staked his claim on the Anatolian shore. Since 1992, Grand Circle Foundation has been contributing to the preservation and ongoing excavations of this remarkable site, with its donations to the Foundation of Friends of Ephesus.

Your discoveries in Ephesus include a visit to the Basilica of St. John, constructed in the fifth century over the tomb of the evangelist St. John, and the site of the Temple of Artemis, one of the original Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.

After Ephesus, visit a local cooperative to learn how hand-woven Turkish carpets are produced, an exclusive Discovery Series event. You’ll also enjoy an included lunch here. Late this afternoon, transfer to the airport for your flight to Istanbul.

Day 15 – Istanbul

Spend the day getting to know Istanbul, the great romantic city straddling the Bosphorus Strait. This morning, you’ll visit a few of the great landmarks of the city’s historic center, which has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. First, explore the sprawling Topkapi Palace, the maze of opulent buildings that served as the seat of the Ottoman Empire between the 15th and 19th centuries. The Topkapi was a city-palace with a population of approximately 4,000 people. It housed all the Ottoman sultans from Sultan Mehmet II to Abdulmecit – 25 sultans over a span of 600 years.

Today, it is the world’s oldest and largest surviving palace, one of the world’s richest museums, and a masterpiece of Turkish architecture – a complex of shady courtyards overlooking the Golden Horn, where the Sea of Marmara meets the Bosphorus. Highlights include the weapons collection, and galleries exhibiting the imperial collection of crystal, silver, fabled jewels, and Chinese porcelain. Please note: The Topkapi Palace is closed Tuesdays. If this day falls on Tuesday, you will visit the Istanbul Archaeological Museums and the Basilica Cistern instead.



You'll also visit the beautiful Sultan Ahmet Mosque. The mosque was built between 1609 and 1616 by the architect Mehmet under the orders of Sultan Ahmet I, who ascended to become the 14th ruler at age 14, and died 14 years later. The mosque is part of a large complex consisting of tombs, medreses (theological schools), fountains, a health center, homes, storehouses, and other buildings, but it is best known for its courtyard, elegant domes, and six minarets soaring above the skyline. As you remove your shoes to enter the mosque, you'll see how it earned the name Blue Mosque: Its interior gleams with a magnificent paneling of blue-and-white Iznik tiles.

After lunch on your own, your tour continues at the magnificent Hagia Sophia, one of the most beautiful buildings in the world. Constructed as a Christian church during the sixth century, this Church of the Holy Wisdom served as the mother church of the Orthodox religion for more than 1,000 years. In 1453, the Ottoman Turks seized control of Istanbul and converted the church into a mosque, which it remained until 1935. Today, it is a museum.

Among the wonders of this remarkable structure is its huge dome – the model for Byzantine churches to come. As you enter the Hagia Sophia, note the cannonballs along the outer courtyard, which remain from the Ottomans' siege of the city. Entering the sanctuary, you will be awed by an immense vaulted ceiling that soars above the four arches on which it rests. Admire the marble walls and the juxtaposition of Islamic calligraphic roundels with golden Christian mosaics that are still being uncovered.

Just outside, you'll also see the remains of the Roman Hippodrome, where thundering chariots once competed in races. Wrestling, boxing, and other athletic events were also held here, as were political rallies. Of special note at the Hippodrome is the Obelisk of Theodosius, which dates to around 1500 BC and which was transported to Istanbul (then Constantinople) in AD 390. You'll also see the fourth-century Constantine Column; the Greek Serpentine Column, one of city's oldest monuments, dating to 479 BC; and the German Fountain, a gift to the Ottoman Sultan in 1898.

Your introduction to Istanbul concludes with a stroll through one of the largest (and with its origins in the 15th century, the oldest) covered markets in the world, Istanbul's Grand Bazaar (known as the Covered Bazaar to the Turkish people). As you browse among the 4,000 shops stretched along miles of labyrinthine passageways, you'll find that the street names recall the days when each trade had its own quarter: goldsmiths' street, carpet sellers' street, and the street of the skullcap-makers. Perhaps you'll find a bargain in brilliant hand-painted ceramics, copper and brassware, gleaming gold jewelry, spices, leather goods, traditional costumes, and antiques. Please note: The Grand Bazaar is closed on Sundays. If this day falls on a Sunday, you will visit Istiklal Street, the Fish Market, and the Galata District instead.

This evening, celebrate your travels with a Farewell Dinner with your fellow travelers at a local restaurant.

Day 16 – Istanbul / Return to the U.S.

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for the flight home.



Pricing Summary & Trip Dates

Trip Name: Treasures of the Aegean
Trip Date: July 2018
Exact Dates: TBD
Cost Per Person: TBD

Please Note: The per person price for our “Treasures of the Aegean” in July 2018 will be posted on this page as soon as that information becomes available.

Trip Cancellation Coverage – Information on trip cancellation insurance for this adventure will be made available as soon as it becomes available.

Reservation Deposit: The deposit to reserve your space on this trip is \$500 per person, fully refundable until 65 days prior to departure.

Need Help? For personal assistance or more information about this trip in the meantime, please call the Southern Exposure office during normal business hours at **(269) 962-1255**, Monday - Friday.

TOUR RESERVATION POLICY:

Reservations can be made by calling Southern Exposure Farm at **(269) 962-1255**. A \$500 deposit is required to guarantee your place (check, cash or credit card accepted). Remaining balance due 90 days before departure.

Note: The information, dates and prices provided in this document are estimates only based on currently available information. Pricing and itinerary are subject to change.

Pricing Disclaimer: *Every effort will be made to provide accurate pricing information. Operator reserves the right to correct promotional or pricing errors at any time, or to increase the trip price in the event of cost increases due to changes in airfares, cruise fares, currency fluctuations, venue fee increases, taxes, or fuel surcharges, or other reasons, unless you pre-paid according to the terms of the Good Buy Plan prior to the cost increase going into effect. For more information, please contact Southern Exposure at **(269) 962-1255**.*

What to Expect:

Treasures of the Aegean 2018

We will make every effort to accommodate your travel needs and make sure you have a pleasant, memorable experience. At the same time, it is important to note the following advisories:

- **Pacing:** 15 days, with 7 nights aboard M/V Artemis, and 4 hotel stays, including a single 1-night stay.
- **Physical Requirements:** You must be able to walk 3 miles unassisted and participate in 6-8 hours of physical activities each day, including several sets of stairs (up to 60 stairs, consecutively). Not accessible for travelers using wheelchairs or scooters. Travelers using walkers, crutches, or other mobility aids must travel with a companion who can assist them throughout the trip, and may not be able to participate in all activities.
- **Climate:** Daytime temperatures range from 63-92°F during cruising season; June-August are the warmest months.
- **Terrain:** Travel over uneven walking surfaces, unpaved paths, hills and rocky slopes, stairs, and cobblestones. Good walking shoes and a walking pole are recommended.
- **Transportation:** Travel by 45-seat coach, funicular, and 50-passenger small ship. Small Ship Cruising: If docked at a pier, gangway incline can be steep. Weather conditions and tides may require adjustments to your itinerary. Good agility, balance, and strength needed for possible rough seas
- **Accommodations & Facilities:** The M/V Artemis does not have elevators onboard.

Vaccinations Information

For a detailed and up-to-date list of vaccinations that are recommended for this trip, please visit the CDC's "Traveler's Health" website at www.cdc.gov/travel. In addition, we recommend that you have both a health checkup, dental checkup before leaving.

For additional information, please contact Southern Exposure at (269) 962-1255. Our staff will be happy to help you.

What's Included in the Package:

- International round-trip airfare from Detroit
- 1 night in Athens at the Superior First-Class St. George Lycabettus or similar, 2 nights in Arachova at the First-Class Anemolia Hotel or similar, 2 nights in Kalambaka at the unrated Hotel Meteora or similar, 7 nights aboard our private small ship, the M/V Artemis, and 2 nights in Istanbul at the unrated Marmara Taksim Hotel or similar
- 31 meals, including Captain's Welcome and Farewell receptions and dinners: 14 breakfasts, 6 lunches, and 11 dinners (and beverages—including beer, wine, and soft drinks—during all onboard lunches and dinners)
- 10 exclusive, included tours with personal headsets: Delphi / Meteora / Syros / Delos / Naxos / Santorini / Amorgos / Patmos / Ephesus / Istanbul
- Exclusive Discovery Series events: Greek cooking class / Home-Hosted Dinner / Island dinner / Carpet weaving lecture
- Services of a dedicated Program Director from the beginning of your main trip to the end
- Airport transfers upon arrival and departure with the purchase of Grand Circle's airfare
- All port charges—a value of \$250 per person
- Gratuities for local guides and motorcoach drivers on your main trip
- Baggage handling for 1 piece of luggage per person, including tips

Passport & Visa Information

Your passport should meet these requirements for this itinerary: It should be valid for at least 6 months after your scheduled return to the U.S. It should have the recommended number of blank pages. The blank pages must be labeled "Visas" at the top. Pages labeled "Amendments and Endorsements" are not acceptable. U.S. citizens will need a visa (or visas) for this trip. In addition, there may be other entry requirements that also need to be met. For your convenience, we've included a quick reference list, organized by country: *Greece*: No visa required. *Turkey*: Visa required. Travelers who are booked on this vacation will be sent a complete Visa Packet – with instructions, applications, and a list of visa fees – approximately 100 days prior to their departure. For more information, please contact Southern Exposure at **(269) 962-1255**.