

Regina

KOS – AMARGOS – IOS – SANTORINI – ASTIPALIA – TILOS – RHODES

DAY 1: Begin your cruise in **Kos**, one of the most fertile islands in the Dodecanese. Like Rhodes, it is abundant with ancient remains and beautiful beaches. The landscape of modern Kos Town, the island's capital and main port, is picturesque. The Castle of the Knights prevails over the port, while Hellenistic and Roman ruins are littered everywhere. There are numerous archaeological sites to visit. The Asclepion is Kos' most important ancient site and is located on a pine covered hill 4km southwest of Kos Town. Amongst the many sandy beaches, Agios Stefanos, sitting next to the ruins of two 5th century basilicas, is a must. At Masthari you can find a number of secluded spots on the sandy shores to rest and relax.



KOS

DAY 2: Cruise to the island of Amorgos, where the Jean Reno movie 'The Big Blue' was filmed, at the south eastern edge of the Cyclades. Parts of this beautiful island soar high above sea level, offering superb views out over the Archipelago, Amorgos is one of the most impressive Cycladic islands, boasting marvellous beaches with azure waters, gorgeous caves, ideal spots for diving, scenic bays and ancient footpaths leading through its steep rocky terrain. Inhabited since the Protocycladic Era, as indicated by archaeological finds brought to light in the area, Amorgos has a long cultural history and tradition and has really preserved its traditional colour and local hospitality.



AMARGOS

DAY 3: Ios, locally called Nios, is an island whose history goes back to prehistoric times. According to Herodotus, the godlike Homer was buried at Plakotos, in the north of the island and Pausanias tells us that there was an inscription at Delphi confirming the poet's interment on Ios. The sites of Ios include a Hellenistic tower and the remains of an ancient aqueduct at Agia Theodoti, traces of an ancient temple at Psathi, a ruinous Venetian castle at the spot known as Paleokastro, and the Hellenistic tower of Plakotos. Have dinner ashore in one of the many local Tavernas.



IOS

DAY 4: As you approach **Santorini**, it's easy to imagine the cataclysm that gave birth to this astonishing and very popular Greek Island. Santorini, with its sheer black volcanic cliffs rising 200 meters out of the sea, actually consists of three islands: Thira, Thirasia and Aspronisi. Between the main port of Skala at the base of the cliff, and Thera (the main town), a narrow path has been etched into the cliff-face in a series of zigzags. To the left of the path there are the prosaic lines of a cable car, the first hint of the island's connection with the twentieth century and tourism. There are three ways to get from Skala to Thera - mule, foot or cable car. The most popular is by mule. Besides the interesting architecture of the houses in Thera, it is worth visiting the two cathedrals, the Monastery of the Dominican nuns, the Catholic monastery of Panagia of Rodari and the Venetian building Gizi. From the gulf of Thera boats can take you to Nea Kammeni to see the volcano's crater from which hot air and sulphuric steam still rises. The hot springs at the nearby Palia Kammeni where the sea is sulphur-blue are also well worth a visit.



SANTORINI

DAY 5: Astipalea island has the classic beauty of a typical sun blessed and white-washed Greek island. The picturesque houses of Astipalia town, on the island's south eastern side, decorate the waterfront with their blue and white painted facades, while the imposing castle stands on the top of the hill. Nine rustic stone windmills characterise the town and just add to its island charm.



ASTIPALIA

DAY 6: Tilos has been one of the best-kept secrets in the Dodecanese for some time, with stunning unspoiled beaches, friendly people and wonderful country for hikes and walking. From a distance it looks arid but it shelters groves of figs, almonds, walnuts, pomegranates and olives, all watered by fresh springs



TILOS

DAY 7: Rhodes, the largest of the Dodecanese, and the fourth largest Greek island, is a favourite port when visiting the south east of Greece. The capital, Rhodes Town, occupies the northernmost tip of the island. There have actually been three cities on this site - modern, ancient and mediaeval. The modern town has a cosmopolitan character, many late 20th century buildings and hotels. The ancient town was founded in 408 BC, according to plans by Hippodamos of Miletos (the first town planner). Today visitors can wander the ruins of the temples of Zeus, Athena Poliados and Apollo, the Stadium, Gymnasium and the Theatre, which has been restored. The mediaeval city is still surrounded by the high walls erected by the Knights. It is divided by an inner wall into two unequal parts, the smaller Collachio and the larger Burgo or Hora and well worth seeing.



DAY 8 : Disembark at Rhodes after breakfast.