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## Complimentary & Optional - Shore Excursions

### Ephesus (Kusadasi) – Thursday, July 29, 2021

#### **KUS301 Intense Ephesus: The Iconic Attractions & Archaeological Museum**

**Duration: 6.5 Hours**

**Activity Level: Moderate**

**Meal: Lunch**

**PRICE: US\$105.00**

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 6<sup>th</sup> century; however, the foundations date back to the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup>-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 2-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 3 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 & The Terrace Houses - Homes of the Wealthy Ephesians**

**Duration: 4 Hours**

**Activity Level: Moderate**

**Meal: None**

**PRICE: COMPLIMENTARY**

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

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

Your visit to the Ephesus site begins at the Magnesia Gate where your guide will then lead you on a leisurely downhill walk through the marble streets of the city. The significance of the sites you are seeing will be explained by the guide and those include the Gymnasium, Odeon, Fountain of Trajan, Temple of Hadrian,

Upper Agora, Town hall, Roman baths, a Byzantine house, and surprisingly efficient public toilets. And of course, no visit to Ephesus is complete without seeing the Library of Celsus. This two-story edifice is finely decorated with columns and sculptures and was erected in 135 BC.

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

The highlight of your visit may well be entry into the newly opened portion of the historic Terrace Houses which are located on the slopes behind Ephesus, opposite the Temple of Hadrian. These houses were inhabited by wealthy Ephesians and were finely decorated. Archaeological evidence points to them being built in the period of Augustus and continued to be inhabited until the 7<sup>th</sup>-century AD.

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

Special Note: This tour includes nearly 2 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.

### **KUS306 Dinner Under the Stars at Ephesus - A Private Event**

**Duration: 3 Hours**

**Activity Level: Moderate**

**Meal: Dinner**

**PRICE: US\$299.00**

This magical and exclusive evening event at the Celsus Library in Ephesus is truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Opened to us by special permission, your after-hours white glove dinner may well become your favorite holiday memory.

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

As you bask in the extraordinary ambience of this truly special evening, you will be served an elegant 5-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 26<sup>th</sup> date is held at the Harbour Street location within Ephesus.

### **KUS309 Exclusive Behind-the-Scenes tour of Ephesus with an Archaeological Expert**

**Duration: 5 Hours**

**Activity Level: Strenuous**

**Meal: None**

**PRICE: US\$119.00**

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 Celsius Library and then continue on to the Agora, Domitian Temple, and Curetes Street. The information imparted by the archaeologist gives added insight into what you are viewing as it goes beyond the normal tour narration.

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

Leaving Ephesus behind, you will next drive to the House of the Virgin Mary. Archaeological evidence dates the small house back to the 6<sup>th</sup> century; however, the foundations date back to the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 ½ hours of moderate to strenuous 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 midribs must be covered when entering religious sites. All shopping and/or carpet demonstrations are optional and at the guest's discretion.

### **KUS310 Historic Sirince Village and the House of the Virgin Mary**

**Duration: 4 Hours**

**Activity Level: Moderate**

**Meal: None**

**PRICE: COMPLIMENTARY**

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 2-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.

### **KUS311 The Ancient Ionian City of Miletus & the Sanctuary of Didyma**

**Duration: 4.5 Hours**

**Activity Level: Moderate**

**Meal: None**

**PRICE: US\$79.00**

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

Start with a scenic 1-hour drive from the pier to Miletus, thought to be the oldest of the Ionian cities. The city was home not only to explorers and traders, but many well-known intellectuals as well, such as Anaximenes who contemplated the heavens; Anaximander, the father of geography; Thales, a pioneer of astronomy and geometry who calculated the height of the Pyramids in Egypt; and Hippodamus, the ancestor of modern city planners whose work you can observe in Miletus' organized, grid-like pattern of streets. Once a great seafaring city, visitors today may wonder how that was given it is 5-miles from the sea. The answer is the Meander River which over the course of time left large deposits of silt that gradually built up the shoreline and distanced the city from the sea. Your visit here will last approximately 1-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 3 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 2-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.

## Nessebar, Bulgaria – Saturday, July 31, 2021

### **NES501 Strandzha Mountain by Jeep & Eco Trekking Adventure**

**Duration: 8 Hours**

**Activity Level: Moderate**

**Meal: Lunch**

**PRICE: US\$129.00**

Travel by jeep into the magical Strandzha Mountain Nature Park for an up-close look at Bulgaria's natural beauty.

Your jeep transports you from the pier to the green slopes of Strandzha Mountain and the nature park, an area that is tucked away from civilization, enabling it to maintain its pristine splendor.

Reaching the park, commence an energizing 1-hour hike along a forested nature trail that follows the river's edge. The crystal-clear babbling waters of the river add to the tranquility and sense of wonder that envelopes you in this truly special place.

After this regenerative experience, you will re-board your jeep and drive to the village of Brashlian, declared an architectural reserve for its well-preserved homes and buildings that date back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Your guided walk of the village includes visiting a 200-year-old house, the village church and the 17<sup>th</sup> century schoolhouse that is now home to an interesting museum. Afterwards, enjoy a traditional lunch followed by a singing performance featuring local women from the village.

Travelling back through the forest to the pier in Nessebar, a stop will be made to capture some beautiful photos at a nearby waterfall.

**Special Note:** This tour includes approximately 3 hours of moderate walking/standing that includes steps and natural, uneven terrain. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests, those with walking difficulties or other physical limitations. Participants should be in good health. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing, sturdy walking shoes, a sun cap, sunglasses, and sunscreen. Shoulders, legs, and midriffs must be covered when entering religious sites.

## **NES305 Discover the Heart of Nessebar on Foot & Step Back in Time at an Ethnographic Complex**

**Duration: 4 Hours**

**Activity Level: Moderate**

**Meal: Snack**

**PRICE: COMPLIMENTARY**

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 11<sup>th</sup> 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. Its 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 2 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 midribs must be covered when entering religious sites.

### **NES302 Explore Nessebar's Old Town on Foot – A UNESCO World Heritage Site**

**Duration: 2.5 Hours**

**Activity Level: Moderate**

**Meal: None**

**PRICE: COMPLIMENTARY**

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 10<sup>th</sup> century and has been restored several times. Within its walls you will find 258 exceptional murals and original paintings from the 16<sup>th</sup> 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 offer 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 2 hours of easy 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. 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.

### **Novorossiysk, Russia – Friday, August 06, 2021**

#### **NVS501 Forest Trek to Gebiusskiye's 7 Waterfalls**

**Duration: 7 Hours**

**Activity Level: Strenuous**

**Meal: Lunch**

**PRICE: US\$239.00**

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

Take a relaxing picturesque drive from the port to the Gebiusskiye 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 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 2-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 2-hours of moderate to strenuous 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.

### **NVS302 Novorossiysk Cultural Landmarks, Musical Performance & Abrau-Durso Winery**

**Duration: 7.75 Hours**

**Activity Level: Moderate**

**Meal: Lunch**

**PRICE: US\$189.00**

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 Novorossisyk 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 3 hours of easy 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.

### **NVS305 Military Tribute to Novorossiysk - A WWII Hero City**

**Duration: 3.5 Hours**

**Activity Level: Moderate**

**Meal: None**

**PRICE: COMPLIMENTARY**

For those wishing a nice overview of the city and its marquee landmarks, this is the perfect choice as it showcases several notable sites.

Start off with a visit to the historic battleship 'Mikhail Kutuzov', now home to the Black Sea Navy Museum. Commissioned in 1954, she served for many decades in Russia's Black Sea Fleet until being opened to the public in 2002.

Continue from here along the seafront, drinking in panoramic views of the city that include the memorial dedicated to its founders. Pass through the city center on your way to the famous Malaya Zemla beachhead where you will find

a monument that is dedicated to the Novorossysk 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, travel into the heart of the city and Hero Square, location of the Eternal Flame. First lit in 1958, it has burned continuously since that time, memorializing all those who lost their lives in battle here. After some time for photos, drive back to the port.

Special Note: This tour includes approximately 90-minutes of easy 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.

### **NVS306 Novorossiysk City Tour & Folk Performance**

**Duration: 4 Hours**

**Activity Level: Moderate**

**Meal: None**

**PRICE: COMPLIMENTARY**

Discover the “Hero City” of Novorossiysk with visits to some of its most important landmarks and later, listen to a delightful musical performance.

Start with a drive from the port to the battleship ‘Mikhail Kutuzov’ for an exterior visit. Commissioned in 1954, she served for many decades in Russia’s Black Sea Fleet until being opened to the public in 2002 and serving as home to the Black Sea Navy Museum.

Your tour continues with a panoramic view of the city and a pass by the motor torpedo boat monument and Founders of the City Memorial. Further along, stop at the memorial complex Malaya Zemlya, which is dedicated to the Novorossiysk landing operation that took place there between September 10 – 16, 1943. From a distance you can view the monument and the paratroopers’ sculpture. The area around the monument is reserved and is still covered with shell-holes and trenches that are the same as they were during WWII.

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 easy 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.

## Sochi, Russia – Saturday, August 07, 2021

### **SOC501 Waterfall Trek & Rafting the Dragon Mouth**

**Duration: 8 Hours**

**Activity Level: Strenuous**

**Meal: Lunch**

**PRICE: US\$259.00**

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 Myzymta 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 ½ 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**

**Duration: 10 Hours**

**Activity Level: Strenuous**

**Meal: Lunch**

**PRICE: US\$349.00**

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

Drive approximately 1-hour from the port to the viewpoint at the Ahshtyrsky 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 Krasnaya Polyana Resort. This modern cable car will transport you 7,500 feet to Black Pyramid Peak where you will commence a 4-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 4 hours of moderate to strenuous 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.

### **SOC301 Best of Sochi - Tea Houses, Stalin's Secret Dacha & Olympic Park**

**Duration: 8 Hours**

**Activity Level: Moderate**

**Meal: Lunch**

**PRICE: US\$225.00**

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 ½ 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 & Olympic Park**

**Duration: 4 Hours**

**Activity Level: Easy**

**Meal: Lunch**

**PRICE: US\$169.00**

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 1 hour of easy 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 & Stalin's Secret Dacha**

**Duration: 3.75 Hours**

**Activity Level: Easy**

**Meal: None**

**PRICE: COMPLIMENTARY**

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 2 hours of easy 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.

### **SOC310 An Evening of Art, Chamber Music & Local Cuisine**

**Duration: 5 Hours**

**Activity Level: Easy**

**Meal: Dinner**

**PRICE: US\$199.00**

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 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> 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 1-hour of easy 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.

## **Sochi, Russia) – Sunday, August 08, 2021**

### **SOC504 Spelunking Adventure at Vorontsovskaya Cave**

**Duration: 8 Hours**

**Activity Level: Moderate**

**Meal: Lunch**

**PRICE: \$199.00**

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 ½ hours of easy 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**

**Duration: 5.5 Hours**

**Activity Level: Moderate**

**Meal: Lunch**

**PRICE: US\$199.00**

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 2-hours of easy 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.

### **SOC306 Hiking the Remarkable Yew and Boxwood Grove**

**Duration: 5 Hours**

**Activity Level: Moderate**

**Meal: Lunch**

**PRICE: US\$129.00**

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 5-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 3 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 repellent and sunscreen.

### **SOC307 Iconic Russian Tea Houses**

**Duration: 4 Hours**

**Activity Level: Easy**

**Meal: Snack**

**PRICE: COMPLIMENTARY**

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 easy 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.

## Batumi, Georgia –Monday, August 09, 2021

### **BUS501 Beautiful Makhuntseti Waterfall and Exhilarating River Rafting**

**Duration: 4 Hours**

**Activity Level: Strenuous**

**Meal: Lunch**

**PRICE: US\$99.00**

Equal parts of tranquil nature that includes a beautiful waterfall, combined with the thrills of rafting, define this tour. All capped off with a lovely lunch in the home of a Georgian family.

Begin with a picturesque drive to the Makhuntseti Waterfall, the highest in the Ajara mountain area. There will be plenty of time to drink in the scenery and take photos before traveling to the nearby village of Makhuntseti where your rafting adventure begins. On your way there, stop for photos at the Tamar Bridge, named after a former Georgian monarch. This impressively constructed 12<sup>th</sup> century stone bridge was one of several strategically built so that horse and cart traffic could cross from one side of the river gorge to the other.

In Makhuntseti, after a safety briefing, board the raft along with your experienced guide-instructor and set off. The key word to this portion of your adventure is fun! For nearly 4 miles, you will guide your raft between the river's boulders and over short cascades. The excitement of not knowing what will come next is pure exhilaration.

Leaving the river, change clothes (be sure to bring an extra set) and drive to the home of a local Georgian family where they will be your hosts for a lunch of delicious Adjarian dishes and homemade wine. The setting is warm and inviting and the company engaging. Following lunch, drive back to the port.

Special Note: This tour includes a limited amount of walking but does include some steps and guests must be able to enter and exit the raft with limited assistance. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests and may not be suitable for those with limited mobility. We recommend wearing weather

appropriate comfortable clothing that can get wet, flat walking shoes with a rubber sole, a sun cap, sunglasses, and sunscreen. Please bring a change of clothes.

### **BUS304 The Impressive Ruins of Petra Fortress, Master Class in Georgian Cuisine & the Kobuleti Museum**

**Duration: 4.5 Hours**

**Activity Level: Moderate**

**Meal: Snacks**

**PRICE: COMPLIMENTARY**

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 sea. Strategically built amongst Georgian rock formations in 535 AD (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.

## **BUS306 Batumi's Remarkable Botanical Garden & Marquee Sites**

**Duration: 5 Hours**

**Activity Level: Moderate**

**Meal: Snack**

**PRICE: COMPLIMENTARY**

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 bread, 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, cafe 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 2-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.

## Sinop, Turkey – Tuesday, August 10, 2021

### **SIC301 Discover Sinop's Cultural Landmarks on Foot**

**Duration: 4 Hours**

**Activity Level: Moderate**

**Meal: Snack**

**PRICE: COMPLIMENTARY**

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 8<sup>th</sup> century AD 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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.

The Sinop Museum has a collection of artifacts that date back to the Early Bronze Age and from the Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine, Selcuk and Ottoman eras. The museum contains not only indoor exhibits but features an open-air section as well.

Following your informative museum visit, walk back to the pier with your guide.

Special Note: This tour includes nearly 3-hours of moderate walking/standing that includes steps and uneven surfaces. The tour is not available to wheelchair guests and is not considered suitable for those with walking difficulties. We recommend wearing weather appropriate comfortable clothing; flat walking shoes; a sun cap; sunglasses and sunscreen.

### **SIC302 Uncover the Natural Forested Beauty of Sinop & Hamsilos Fjord**

**Duration: 3.5 Hours**

**Activity Level: Moderate**

**Meal: Snack**

**PRICE: COMPLIMENTARY**

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 – Wednesday, August 11, 2021

### AMR301 Colorful Amasra Town & Its Blended Rich Heritage

**Duration: 4 Hours**

**Activity Level: Moderate**

**Meal: None**

**PRICE: COMPLIMENTARY**

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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 3-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.

## **AMR302 The UNESCO World Heritage City of Safranbolu – A Historical Trading Center**

**Duration: 5 Hours**

**Activity Level: Moderate**

**Meal: Snack**

**PRICE: COMPLIMENTARY**

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 11<sup>th</sup> century. By the 13<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> century Incekaya aqueduct. Constructed of rubble stone, it is a marvel of ancient engineering.

Special Note: This tour includes approximately 3-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.

## **Istanbul, Turkey – Thursday, August 12, 2021**

### **IST306 Istanbul's Ottoman Influence – The Blue Mosque, Topkapi Palace & the Cistern**

**Duration: 6 Hours**

**Activity Level: Moderate**

**Meal: Lunch**

**INCLUDED FOR ALL CMEatSEA and President's Cruise Guests**

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, 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.

Your final journey on foot brings you to the Byzantine Underground Cistern. The Cistern dates from the 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

Following your visit to the Cistern, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.

Special note: This tour includes over 3 ½ 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, legs, and midriffs must be covered when entering religious sites.