

streets, tall houses, convents, churches, palaces, fountains and museums. The oldest pharmacy in Europe, located in the Friars Minor monastery is a highlight.

Split

Split is not only an urban, cultural and traffic centre of Dalmatia, but it is also a popular tourist destination. A city with a 1700-year old tradition, there is a variety of archaeological, historical and cultural monuments, among which is the well-known Palace of Diocletian

Athens

The port of Piraeus is one of the last old-style Mediterranean ports from where you can catch ferries to all of the Greek islands and travel a short distance to Athens, the capital city of Greece. Athens is an ancient city, steeped in many centuries of history. In the heart of the city lies the ancient Plaka district, with its honeycomb of streets, little shops and tavernas that come alive at night. Situated on the north and east slopes of the Acropolis, it is rich with historic sites, such as ancient monuments and churches. Within Athens there are eight large hills, including the Acropolis, and on the outskirts, Mount Parnitha, Mount Pendeli and Mount Hymettos surround the city. A trip to Athens' most famous tourist attraction, the impressive Parthenon built on the Acropolis around 2,500 years ago, will be memorable to say the least.

Mykonos

Mykonos is the most famous tourist island in the Eastern Mediterranean and certainly the most cosmopolitan among the Cyclades. Mykonos easily captures the visitors interest, thanks to the great variety of choices on offer. "Holidays" here can mean anything from the most peaceful relaxation to the wildest partying.

Heraklion

Heraklion or Iraklion, is the largest city and the capital of Crete, Greece. It is one of the two main ports on the island and was once the harbour for Knossos, the largest palace and most powerful Minoan centre on the island. The ruins of Knossos, which were excavated and restored by Arthur Evans, are nearby.

Rhodes

The Island of Rhodes is the sunniest place in Europe; it averages 300 days of sunshine per year. It is the fourth largest island in Greece. Occupied by Italy until only 56 years ago, it is now "occupied" by thousands of enthralled international visitors.

The "palia poli" (the old city) is the medieval city of Rhodes, surrounded by a high defensive wall. It is one of the few medieval cities still inhabited in its largest part, excluding its museums, of course. Walking along its cobbled streets one is reminded of iron-armoured horse's hooves clapping, and steel swords clashing and clanging.

Santorini

Santorini is a small, circular archipelago of volcanic islands located in the southern Aegean Sea, about 200 km south-east from Greece's mainland. It is one of the best-known of the Cyclades where towering cliffs crowned by tiny white houses plunge straight into the depths of the sea. The steep coastline of the west is countered by the vast beaches of the east side, some of them sandy and others with pebbles. Santorini is famous for dramatic views, stunning sunsets from Oia town, the strange white aubergine, the town of Thira and naturally its very own active volcano. There are also fantastic beaches such as the Periss and Kamari.

Kusadasi

Kusadasi is a resort town in the province of Aydin on the Aegean coast of Turkey. The city stands on a bay in the Aegean with the peninsula of Guvercin Ada sticking out into the sea at one end, and the mountain of Kaz Dagi behind. Kusadasi is a sprawling tourist centre, serving thousands of tourists who flock here to visit the nearby ruins of Ephesus (30 km's away) and enjoy the beaches. It is also a great place for shopping. A highlight is a visit to a small island connected to the coast by a footbridge called Guvercin Adasis. The island has a walled fortress with a small museum and is great for exploring.

Istanbul

Istanbul is Europe's most populous city and Turkey's cultural and financial centre. It is located on the Bosphorus Strait and encompasses the natural harbour known as the Golden Horn, in the northwest of the country. Part of Istanbul's great attraction is its unique position on two continents, divided by the Bosphorus. Most of the population live on the European side; the Asian sector is reached via the high-level Bosphorus Bridge, the Fatih Sultan Mehmet Bridge or by ferry. Its numerous monuments, mosques and museums, plus the famous Grand Bazaar, make it one of the world's great destinations.

