


# ISTANBUL, THE AEGEAN SEA & ATHENS

## AN ELEVEN NIGHT HOLIDAY INCLUDING A SEVEN NIGHT CRUISE ON BOARD THE STAR CLIPPER | 21 JUNE - 2 JULY 2012

One of the world's most idyllic expanses of water, the Aegean is at its best when seen from the deck of a tall clipper as you breeze from island to island. The sea is dotted with archipelagos of hundreds of individual islands topped with white-washed villages, and lapped by azure waters. This holiday starts with two days discovering the vibrant melting-pot of cultures and civilisations that make up Istanbul. The Star Clipper then heads south west through the Sea of Marmara, stopping at the site of Ancient Troy before emerging into the Aegean Sea. The ship sails past the secretive monastic communities which inhabit the peninsula of Mount Athos in Halkidiki, getting as close as is possible without special permission from the monks themselves. The sails then turn to take you south through the picture-perfect Sporades islands and the last port of call is Athens with its ancient monuments, and stunning new Acropolis Museum.

### SUGGESTED ITINERARY

- Fly from London Heathrow to Istanbul.
- Private car transfer from the airport to the Hotel Sultanahan.
- Two nights' accommodation, with breakfast, staying in a double room at the Hotel Sultanhan in Istanbul. Within five minutes walk of the hotel are some of the most awe-inspiring sites of this incredible city. Ever since the Roman Emperor Constantine made the city his new Imperial capital, Istanbul has been at the centre of European history. The legacies of ancient Constantinople, Byzantium and Ottoman Istanbul are each visible in a city which effortlessly combines ancient and modern, west and east and even land and sea, literally spanning two continents.
- Private half day walking tour of the old city of Istanbul, including the Aya Sofia, the Blue Mosque and the Hippodrome.
- Private car transfer from the hotel to Istanbul port.
-  Board the Star Clipper on 23 June for a seven night cruise. The ship calls at Canakkale for Troy, and then the island of Myrina, before sailing by Mount Athos and stopping on at Sarti in Halkidiki. The ship stops at the Sporadic islands of Skopelos, Skiathos and Skiros, then Poros and finally Athens itself.
- Private car transfer from the port to the hotel in Athens.
- Two nights' accommodation with breakfast, staying in a double room at the boutique 4\* St George Lycabettus hotel. The birthplace of Western democracy, architecture, geometry and countless other innovations, Athens is an exciting city with a vibrant present and an unparalleled history. The modern metropolis includes some of the world's best preserved archeological ruins from both ancient Greek and Roman eras, as well as a bustling pedestrianised old town and a thriving arts scene. The outstanding Archeological Museum has recently been complimented by the addition of the state-of-the-art Acropolis Museum at the foot of the famous monument, which provides a stunning new way to preserve and display some of the treasures of the Parthenon.
- Entrance tickets to the new Acropolis Museum.
- Private car transfer to Athens airport.
- Fly from Athens to London Heathrow.



### RECOMMENDED HOTELS

#### Hotel Sultanhan \*\*\*\* Superior, Istanbul

Located on a quiet street in the heart of the old Sultanahmet area of Istanbul, just five minutes' walk from the Grand Bazaar, the Blue Mosque and the Aya Sofia, the hotel is in a perfect location to see the sights. The spectacular 'Terrace Restaurant' on the rooftop serves breakfast, lunch and dinner in the open air, with panoramic views over Istanbul's unique skyline and towards the Bosphorus beyond. The hotel is tastefully decorated in a 19th Century Ottoman style and the 40 spacious rooms have parquet floors and marble bathrooms.

*These are two of our favourite hotels, however we feature a range of hand picked hotels, please ask for further details.*

#### St George Lycabettus \*\*\*\* Deluxe, Athens

A contemporary hotel in the upmarket Kolonaki neighbourhood of Athens on the side of Lycabettus hill (some rooms have Acropolis views – supplements on request). The top floor restaurant has panoramic views and there is a lovely garden, outdoor swimming pool and a small spa to help you relax after a day's sightseeing.

### PRICE INFORMATION

Holiday price, based on sharing a double room from: £2,158 per person. Prices based on staying at our recommended hotel, alternative hotels and regional airport departures available on request.

### EXTEND YOUR STAY

For a longer holiday, we can arrange for a stay at one of our recommended hotels on one of the idyllic Cyclades islands such as Santorini or Mykonos, with travel from Athens by air or sea. Please contact us for a tailor-made quotation.

### ALTERNATIVE DATES

This holiday is also available departing on 16 August 2012. Prices on request.

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL 020 7593 1890