

## Cruising the Greek islands: The top summer travel trend



After a difficult winter, the gradual return to normality finds us 'thirsty' for adventure and, in particular, for magical moments under the Greek sun and boat tours on the '[Idyllic Aegean](#)' Sea. Because if there is one thing we have particularly missed during the past months, it is undoubtedly the ability to travel comfortably and safely in order to enjoy unique travel experiences.

For all the reasons above, more and more people want to organize their travel plans for this summer, with an emphasis on the experience and, of course, the combination of many different destinations per trip.

It is no coincidence then that in terms of the top travel trends of 2021, cruises are amongst the most popular choices, with Greece and Cyprus being one of the favourite destinations once again.



### **From flexibility to security and unique experiences**

When it comes to an organized and safe roadmap for the "opening" of tourism in our country, we are seeing growing demand for Greece, both as a tourist destination and for cruising in general. But why do more and more travelers turn to cruising again when it comes to their summer vacations?

There are many reasons why cruising is an option that meets most of the needs of today's travelers. One of the most important issues today is safety and how an all-inclusive trip can protect its passengers by complying with the required [health protocols](#). However, equally important, is the flexibility that characterizes cruising in 2021: From the freedom of travelling adjustments to the freedom in terms of cancellations and bookings.



Moreover, in addition to the price, one of the key factors that makes cruising a top travel choice is the range of experiences that a traveler can enjoy both on land and on board. [Celestyal Cruises'](#) renewed slogan "*Experience life, experience the journey*" encourages travelers to experience unique moments, enjoy the journey and discover a unique place within them, which they can make their own, either through special gastronomic choices or by exceptional suggestions for entertainment and relaxation that can be enjoyed during the cruise. What is certain is that 5 bars, 3 restaurants, a spa, a casino and swimming pools give another dimension to the cruises in the Aegean and offer every passenger comfort and tranquility during their summer vacation.

Additionally, the ability to discover multiple destinations in a single trip, is a parameter that explains the great popularity of cruises this summer as well. Given that this is essentially a choice that can meet the needs of every traveler - from families to couples and individual travelers - we understand why cruising is in great demand during this period.



### **Discovering the magic of the Legendary Archipelago**

So, what are the Eastern Mediterranean cruise destinations that have stood out this year and what experiences do most travelers want to enjoy now?

Starting from the port of Lavrio we head to the port of Thessaloniki, which this year for the first time in 15 years became a "home port", a point of start and end of the cruise, which will facilitate not only residents of Northern Greece, but also the Balkans and Europeans in general, as it is no longer necessary to arrive in Athens in order to board the cruise.

Next stop is Mykonos, perhaps the most famous and cosmopolitan island of the Cyclades, with dozens of magical beaches and great nightlife. The whitewashed alleys, the pelicans and the luxurious shops with designer brands impress and prove that the island is not only suited to fun-lovers.

From Mykonos the cruise ship sails to Santorini, the number one choice for every romantic couple as well as numerous other travelers. The enchanting sunset of Oia combined with the volcanic landscape, the red sand on the beaches and the local wines are some of the reasons why the island is renowned as a top destination.

The route continues with the island of the knights, Rhodes, with dozens of impressive archeological and medieval monuments, picturesque villages and enchanting beaches, most of which are ideal for water sports and activities such as diving, kayaking and surfing. The Old Town and its medieval walls are considered the most emblematic and well-known sights on the island, which can be toured by local certified guides.

From Rhodes the cruise ship sails to Limassol, the second largest city in Cyprus, which combines the cosmopolitan environment and entertainment with tradition and history. The landmark of the city is the Castle, which is located very close to the port, while Kourion, an ancient city right by the sea, offers stunning views of the Mediterranean. It is also possible to participate in the optional excursion offered by the company, which includes visiting Paphos and the UNESCO archeological site, as well as the Rock of Aphrodite.

The cruise continues with the island of Crete and more specifically with Agios Nikolaos, a small picturesque seaside village that offers relaxation to its visitors. There is also the majestic lake of Voulismeni, around which the city center is built, with many traditional boats that complete the graphic scenery.

These are some of the most popular tourist destinations for this summer. The possibility to visit them on a single trip explains why Celestyal Cruises stands out for the options and the experiences it offers when it comes to cruising in the Aegean.



The "[Legendary Archipelagos](#)" cruise with Celestyal Olympia, which will operate until the 30<sup>th</sup> of August, departs from the port of Lavrio - where the company has exclusive use of the port – and gives travelers the opportunity to enjoy seven days of unique experiences, both on board as well as on land.



Celestyal has scheduled many activities - from exploring great cultural heritage sites, to unique gastronomic experiences and from unforgettable trips to many islands and destinations, to memorable [concerts under the stars](#), where visitors will enjoy performances by various Greek artists, such as Thanasis Polykandriotis, Stelios Dionysiou, Michalis Hatzigiannis and Onirama.



### **Sailing in the idyllic Aegean in the most carefree way**

When it comes to all-inclusive cruises in Greece, the "[Idyllic Aegean](#)" also stands out as it offers so much in terms of travel combining relaxation with exploration. The idyllic cruise essentially gives travelers the opportunity to escape for seven days and nights in the Aegean and to experience numerous summer events under the Greek sun.

It is important to note that on an all-inclusive cruise there are no hidden charges. The Celestyal [all-inclusive experience](#) combines excellent value for money with the highest standards. All meals on the cruise ships, prepared on the same day with fresh ingredients by skilled chefs on board, are free. The same applies to juices, soft drinks, cocktails and other alcoholic beverages that a passenger can enjoy in one of the bars or restaurants or even by the ship's pool. As far as entertainment goes, every night travelers have the opportunity to enjoy fantastic shows, such as the artistic team of Cirque Fantastic, while during the cruise there are many other events and activities offered on a daily basis, so that visitors have a unique experience and create unforgettable memories on board. In addition, the price of the ticket also tips for the cruise staff and two organized guided excursions which allow guests to discover and get to know in depth the best sights in each destination.



During this idyllic cruise, Celestyal Crystal will visit six enchanting Greek islands.

The first destination is picturesque Patmos with its monumental medieval walls and intense spiritual energy. Later, a whole day is spent in Rhodes with its majestic fortifications and beaches with crystal-clear waters. Visitors will have the opportunity to tour the magnificent Old Town, a labyrinth of cobbled streets that will take them to the Byzantine Empire and beyond, while a free excursion to Lindos is also planned. On the fourth day of the cruise, the passengers of the Celestyal Crystal will visit Santorini, with its characteristic white houses and unique sunsets. In the evening, passengers will have the opportunity to experience the island's nightlife as the ship spends the night in the port.

The following day, Celestyal Crystal pays a brief visit to the picturesque port of Lavrio with its seaside taverns and delicious seafood delicacies, while the next destination on the same day is the sunny island of Mykonos with its world-famous nightlife, its incredible alleys and its white traditional windmills. Then, the volcanic and enchanting Milos with its numerous fishing villages, the greyish-*white rocks* of the amazing beach called Sarakiniko, and the crystal clear blue-green waters, which promises to leave lasting impressions on every traveler.

The final destination is the beautiful city of Agios Nikolaos in Crete, with its neoclassical buildings, picturesque lake and dozens of bars and restaurants alongside. The cruise ends in Athens, the historical capital of the country.





Flexibility, safety, affordable luxury, culinary delights, unique cultural experiences and a combination of many special destinations in just one trip. There is no doubt that cruises have experienced a high level of demand this summer and are the perfect option for many travelers who want to enjoy the Greek sun, the magic of our [Idyllic Aegean](#) and our [Legendary Archipelago](#) cruises, in the most comfortable and carefree way, by choosing affordable packages which offer a variety of benefits. It is certainly no coincidence that [Celestyal Cruises](#) has been awarded as the number one choice for cruise travelers to the Greek Islands and the Eastern Mediterranean.