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EXPERIENCE

A cruise to
stunning Croatia &
the Aegean

EXPLORE

Fairytale islands
& bask on sunny
beaches

DISCOVER

Ancient civilizations
& motor-coach tours



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THE MEDITERRANEAN

WHY THE MEDITERRANEAN WITH THOMPSONS?

Endless lazy summer days on exquisite beaches and scenic coastlines; enticing cuisine and warm hospitality; fairytale islands and romantic cruises; azure warm waters of the Aegean; fascinating ancient cities and quaint villages... this is the Mediterranean. Discover the unique magic of Turkey, Greece and Croatia with Thompsons Holidays. Picture yourself relaxing on an idyllic Greek island or marvelling at the timeless Parthenon in Athens and visiting the spectacular Blue Mosque in Istanbul before sailing on a skippered yacht charter down Turkey's sparkling blue coast. Gaze at gorgeous Gothic buildings in Dubrovnik, the Pearl of the Adriatic, and cruise along the Dalmatian coast to breathtaking islands.

TRAVEL WITH CONFIDENCE WITH A GLOBAL COMPANY

With 40 years of trusted travel experience you will receive expert advice. No request too large, no detail too small.

Thompsons Holidays, a division of Cullinan Holdings Group and a member of THE TRAVEL CORPORATION, a fourth generation family owned group.

Our financial stability is the key to a relaxed holiday.

UNRIVALLED VALUE FOR MONEY ON TRIED AND TESTED HOLIDAYS

As the largest South African tour operator our greater buying power means you get the best deal on your holiday, unrivalled value for money and unexpected bonus offers.

WE ARE WITH YOU 24/7

With you all the way – our care line is your friend in an emergency.





Opatija
Zagreb
Plitvice Lakes
Split
Dubrovnik
Isle of Hvar

Croatia

Corfu
Skiathos
Skopelos
Athens
Zakynthos
Paros
Mykonos
Santorini
Crete
Istanbul
Kusadasi
Naxos
Bodrum
Marmaris
Rhodes

Greece **Turkey**

GREECE

Greece is the cradle of Western civilization and the birthplace of democracy, philosophy, political science and Western literature. This is home to a staggering 17 UNESCO sites and the birthplace of the Olympic Games, the benchmark for sporting achievement around the world. Greece is also home to the most picturesque islands and coastline bordering the azure Aegean Sea which is a magnet for holiday makers from around the world.



GENERAL INFO

Capital of Greece: Athens.

Language: Greek. English is widely spoken.

Visa: South African passport holders do require Schengen visas. Multiple Entry Schengen Visa for Islands.

Currency: Euro (€).

When to go: Spring through to Autumn (May to October) is the best time to visit Greece.

Time: GMT+2 (GMT+3 April to October).

What things cost

These are approximate prices and may vary according to hotels and seasons (Euro)

Bottle of water-0.5L	: 0.50 - 1.00 Euro
Metro or bus ticket	: 1.40 Euro
Filter coffee/cappuccino/tea	: 2.45 - 6.00 Euro
Bottle of beer	: 3.60 - 8.00 Euro
Glass of wine	: 2.80 - 8.00 Euro
Souvlaki	: 2.00 - 3.00 Euro
Soft drinks	: 2.80 - 3.00 Euro

Hotel Gradings: The hotel star gradings shown are those of the respective country or supplier.

Prices: Please refer to www.thompsons.co.za or contact Thompsons Holidays.

GETTING AROUND THE ISLAND

The Greek islands are traditionally grouped into the following clusters:

The **Argo- Saronic Islands** in the Saronic Gulf near Athens.

The **Cyclades**, a large but dense collection of islands occupying the central part of the Aegean Sea. These are the most popular islands and ferry connections to Athens are frequent. The best known in this group of islands are Santorini, Mykonos, Paros, Naxos and Ios. Certain Cycladic islands have ferry connections to Crete and onwards from Crete to Rhodes. Daily flight connections available.

The **Dodecanese**, is a collection of islands in the south, between Crete and Turkey. You can visit Rhodes by ferry or flight from Athens and there are connections between Rhodes and Kos.

The **Ionian Islands**, including Corfu and Kefalonia, are located to the west of the mainland in the Ionian Sea. There are no ferry connections from Athens to these islands and the closest port is Patra which is approximately 177km from Athens. We recommend you fly to these islands.

The **Sporades Islands**, which include Skiathos and Skopelos, are also not accessible by ferry from Athens. The closest port to these islands is Ayios Constandinos which is 180km from Athens by bus from where you can then take a ferry across to Skiathos. Once again we recommend you fly.

SIGHTSEEING EXPERIENCES



ATHENS

Sightseeing Tour Including Acropolis Museum

Be immersed into this breathtaking city, with its astounding representations of the city's ancient past and its glorious history. Explore some of the ancient sites such as the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, which stands proudly in front of the parliament house. Then, discover the Panathenian Stadium, the home of the first modern Olympics Games. Next, see the sights of the Acropolis, the Parthenon and the Presidential Palace.

One Day Cruise (Hydra - Poros - Aegina)

This breathtaking full-day cruise invites you to explore the glorious islands of the Saronic Gulf. Begin at Hydra, the favourite island of the jet set; explore its stone houses, craft shops and narrow paved streets, set alongside the crystal waters. Then sail to Poros, a small and enchanting island. Aegina is next to discover the Church of Saint Nektarios, whose relics are on display. On the way back stop at Marina Flisvos and see the traditional Greek folk show with its singers and dancers.

PAROS

Paros Highlights (Bus Tour)

The tour commences from the island capital - Parikia. It is here that you may visit the Panagia Ekatontapiliani Church, the Old Market and Kastro. Then board the bus and delight in the panoramic views as you travel to the village of Lefkes. This beautiful village is built in an amphitheatre-type style, atop the mountain with extraordinary surrounding views. Ensure that you make some time to explore the Town Hall which is built from the famous Marble of Paros. Next, travel to the Port of Naoussa, the most cosmopolitan village of the island. Explore its Venetian castle, the village's narrow streets and the restaurants serving Greek specialities.

SANTORINI

Volcano - Hot Springs - Thirassia - OIA - Sunset

Cruise on traditional wooden boat to the nearby island with its volcanic craters which are a leisurely walk away, with panoramic views of Santorini. Next enjoy a swim at the undersea thermal springs. Then to Thirassia which is a typical Cycladic village that offers a peek at traditional Greek village life with a final visit to Oia to enjoy the magnificent sunset.

NAXOS

Yesterday & Today

Stop in the picturesque Tragea Plateau, located in the heart of the beautiful island with its vast olive groves and typical villages. In Damalas, visit the restored oil press and a traditional pottery shop. Tour Chalki with its impressive neo-classic town centre. Cross the mountains towards the popular village of Apirantho with its whitewashed houses and romantic, narrow alleys.

MYKONOS

Old Town & Island Tour

Walking tour of the old town including the famous windmills. Explore narrow streets with cheerful boutiques and noisy restaurants which are open till late. After this we explore the island by bus, visiting some of the most famous beaches and the village of Ano Mera with a monastery built in the 16th century.

RHODES

Island Tour

Visit some of the most extraordinary sites in Rhodes beginning at the Panorama of Lindos with expansive views. Explore Prasonisi, and its beautiful waves and views. The Monolithos Castle, a tall craggy castle, which was considered one of the most powerful fortresses on the island. Travel to the slopes of Mount Acramitis with a beautiful mountain settlement at Siana Village. Discover the ancient Saint Panteleimon Church and explore Embonas. The tour ends at the Valley of the Butterflies, an ancient ravine - home to thousands of butterflies.

Book tours with local operators on arrival - subject to availability.

ISLAND HOPPING THROUGH THE GREEK ISLANDS



ATHENS - MYKONOS - SANTORINI 7 NIGHTS

You will be met and transferred to your hotel in Athens. Take time out to visit the Acropolis, home to the famous Parthenon, then dine in a boisterous restaurant in the Plaka. Then sail to the exciting island of Mykonos where you have three days to wander amongst whitewashed houses and discover the famous beaches. Sail to Santorini, the jewel of the Aegean with its quaint hilltop towns spilling over the cliff side. On day seven you sail back to Athens for your last night in Greece with enough time for a farewell dinner.

ATHENS - PAROS - NAXOS 9 NIGHTS

On arrival in Athens you will be met and transferred to your hotel - the rest of the day is free to explore the city and dine in the old city area of Plaka for authentic cuisine and music. The next day ferry to the party island of Paros for three nights. Relax on the beaches, explore vineyards, dine on fresh grilled seafood and party till late. Bid Paros farewell as you ferry to Naxos with its many picturesque villages, sandy beaches and delicious local cuisine. On day eight you return to Athens for two nights and a guided tour of ancient sites and the Acropolis Museum.

COMBINE YOUR CRUISE WITH A TOUR



CLASSICAL GREECE - 5 NIGHTS

Highlights include Athens; a guided tour of Olympia; the picturesque town of Kalambaka with its famous

monasteries of Meteora; and Delphi – once home to the famous Oracle.



view the famous monasteries on the rock at Meteora.

ATHENS, DELPHI & METEORA - 4 NIGHTS

Highlights include Athens, a guided tour of Delphi, once home to the famous Oracle, as well as Kalambaka where you can



ATHENS CITY BREAK - 2 NIGHTS

Highlights include a guided tour of the ancient sights of the city that is the birthplace of modern civilization – including the

Acropolis where the Parthenon stands proudly overlooking the city.

CRUISE THE GREEK ISLANDS WITH CELESTYAL CRUISES



3 NIGHT ICONIC AEGEAN CRUISE

ATHENS - MYKONOS - SAMOS OR KUSADASI - PATMOS - CRETE - SANTORINI - ATHENS

The most compact of the Aegean cruises, this three days cruise offers you a fleeting visit to the loveliest of the Greek islands, and of course a visit to Kusadasi in Turkey, the site of ancient Ephesus.



4 NIGHT ICONIC AEGEAN CRUISE

ATHENS - MYKONOS- SAMOS OR KUSADASI- PATMOS- RHODES- CRETE- SANTORINI- ATHENS

For those with a little more time this lovely cruise combines the best of the Greek Islands plus the opportunity to visit ancient Ephesus in Turkey. On this concise cruise passengers can enjoy the most known of the Aegean sea treasures.



7 NIGHT IDYLIC AEGEAN CRUISE

ATHENS - MYKONOS - MILOS - SANTORINI - CRETE - SAMOS OR KUSADASI -ATHENS

If you have even more time this is an incredible itinerary for a leisurely cruise including some of the most charming and less known islands dotted around the aquamarine blue Aegean Sea. Enjoy full days of exploring in Santorini and Mykonos.

ATHENS

Memorable Must-do Experiences

- 1) Visit the Acropolis Hill – Home to the Parthenon.
- 2) ‘Climb’ Lycabettus Hill or take the cable car.
- 3) Stroll down Monastiraki Flea Market.

The origins of Athens go back nearly 5000 years and at every turn you are reminded of its glorious and historic past. Home to the Parthenon on the Acropolis which affords you panoramic views of the entire city, and the cobbled streets of the nearby Plaka district in the old city which give you a taste of Greek life centuries ago. Start your holiday with a day or two soaking up the culture of Athens by day and enjoying legendary Greek cuisine and hospitality by night. This is your perfect gateway to the magnificent Greek Islands.

★★★★ PRESIDENT HOTEL

Conveniently located in a vibrant and safe district close to the historic, cultural and commercial centre of Athens, the hotel offers superb transportation links for all the city's main attractions, shopping and business areas * Spacious, luxurious rooms, equipped with all the standard conveniences * Facilities include twin or double beds, double glazed windows, independently controlled air conditioning, mini fridge, electronic room locks, direct phone line, wireless internet connection, satellite TV and safes. Come home to Penthouse 21, a dazzling bar and restaurant on the 21st floor overlooking the outdoor pool with panoramic views.

★★★★ TITANIA HOTEL

Located near Syntagma Square in the heart of the Historical and Commercial Centre of Athens. The hotel is surrounded by the most important monuments of Grecian History, such as the Acropolis, the New Museum of Acropolis, the Parliament, the Archaeological Museum and the National Library and within a short distance to theatres, modern commercial shops and city malls * All rooms are designed to combine style with comfort and convenience and feature sound-insulation, an up-to-date integrated communication and entertainment system with high-speed Internet access, a wide variety of digital movies and music, instant PC connection, fax modems, satellite TV, mini safe, mini bar and air conditioning * 3 Restaurants * Conference facilities * 2 Bars * Wi-Fi.

★★★★★ DIVANI PALACE ACROPOLIS

Ideally located just below the shadow of Acropolis and minutes away from the old quarter of Plaka, the brand new archaeological Museum of Acropolis and the well-known Herodion theatre * 250 Luxurious rooms offers a harmonious blend of modern convenience and classical charm with modern amenities * 2 Restaurants * 2 Bars (1 with outstanding views of the Acropolis) * Conference facilities * Swimming pool.

MYKONOS



Take a stroll through the maze of narrow streets and marvel at the many tiny chapels and whitewashed houses with their flower-filled balconies. This little island is a jet set hotspot, with stunning beaches, a selection of superb shops and restaurants and a buzzing nightlife that only stops when another spectacular sunrise dawns.

Memorable Must-do Experiences

- 1) Enjoy spectacular sundowners in 'Little Venice'.
- 2) Visit the Windmills in Mykonos town.
- 3) Laze on some of the most beautiful beaches.

★★★★ KAMARI HOTEL

This elegant hotel is situated between two beautiful and popular beaches, Plati Yialos and Psarou * The exceptional location, the traditional design, the charming range of accommodation and the professional service assures guests of a memorable holiday * There is a selection of rooms including family suites and facilities include a sparkling pool and kiddies pool, Jacuzzi, snack bar, in and outdoor cafes, game room and internet access.



★★★★★ PETASOS BEACH RESORT & SPA

Stands majestically on a private peninsula offering great class and stunning sea views of the Aegean for unique privacy and relaxation * Rooms are designed for optimal comfort and ultimate seclusion and present the embodiment of comfort. Facilities include air conditioning, satellite TV, mini safe, mini bar and Wi-Fi * 2 Restaurants * 2 Bars * Swimming pool * Fitness Centre * Jacuzzi * Sauna and steam bath * Beach * Aqua Marine Spa * Conference facilities.



★★★★★ MYKONOS GRAND HOTEL & RESORT

Luxurious, boutique resort located on the beach of Ayios Yiannis, (where the movie Shirley Valentine was filmed), just 4,2 km from Mykonos Town with shopping areas, world famous nightlife and restaurants such as Nobu * Luxury rooms designed for optimal comfort and ultimate seclusion feature bathrobes / slippers, tea/coffee making facilities, DVD player with complimentary DVD library, iPod/iPad docking station, mini bar, complimentary Wi-Fi, air conditioning and flat screen TV * 2 Restaurants * 2 Bars * Pool deck lounge * Swimming pool * Fitness Centre * Tennis court * Squash court * Yoga * Althea Spa * Conference facilities.



SANTORINI

Memorable Must-do Experiences

- 1) Enjoy the famous sunsets in Oia.
- 2) Swim at the hot springs.
- 3) Take a donkey ride.

The island of Santorini is perhaps the most breathtaking of all the Greek Islands. This striking volcanic island boasts sparkling white houses that cling to the cliffside and pebble beaches tickled by an aquamarine sea. The town of Thira with its narrow streets, open-air cafes and glittering boutiques offers magnificent views of the sea below and is connected to the port by means of cable car or donkey ride up the steep cliff.

★★★ MELINA HOTEL

Situated in an idyllic location in the main Santorini town of Fira within easy access of all sandy beaches of the island and shopping centres, cafes, taverns, restaurants and nightclubs * Rooms are furnished in pale shades and create comfortable surroundings each with their own balcony, air conditioning, TV, mini fridge, music and mini safe box * Swimming pool * TV lounge * Bar * Wi-Fi * Restaurant.

★★★★ EL GRECO RESORT

One of the most prestigious Santorini resort hotels, located minutes away from vibrant Fira and 7km from Monolithos beach, 12km from the black sandy beach of Kamari and 14km from Perissa - the largest beach of Santorini island * 150 Rooms with a decoration style that compliments the minimal lines of Santorinian architecture, featuring air conditioning, mini fridge, satellite TV, mini safe and a balcony or terrace * 4 Swimming pools * Children's pool * 2 Jacuzzi's * Conference room * Poolside bar * Snack bar * Restaurant * TV lounge * Private chapel * Wi-Fi * Fitness Centre.

Memorable Must-do Experiences

- 1) Visit the Paleokastritsa Monastery.
- 2) Relax on Sidari Beach.
- 3) View the Mon Repos Palace.

CORFU

Corfu, on the west coast of Greece in the Ionian Sea, is well known for its magnificent beaches, abundant vegetation and vast olive groves. The island offers 220km of footpaths that will take you into the mountains with untouched villages and breathtaking views. Rent a car and take a scenic drive to the legendary village of Nymphes.

★★★★ DIVANI CORFU PALACE

The Divani Corfu Palace is a modern luxury hotel situated on the hillside of Kanoni, overlooking the pristine waters of the lagoon * It has an ideal location, delight in views of the bay as you enjoy breakfast * Perfectly situated a short distance from the Corfu town centre and the beach of Mon Repos * The comfortable and stylish rooms include: Wi-Fi, a mini-bar, air conditioning, and beautiful views of the lagoon * Some of the facilities that the hotel offers include: a swimming pool, a formal restaurant as well as a poolside restaurant and bar.

SKIATHOS



Skiathos is a stunning island, with many beaches, that can be circumnavigated in a couple of hours. Skiathos town is a thriving, cosmopolitan centre that hums with energy during the summer months. Sip ouzo on the waterfront, dance the night away, shop till you drop or dine at one of the many restaurants.

★★★★ PLAZA HOTEL

Built amongst picturesque olive groves and pine forests, this hotel is close to the superb bay of Kanapitsa and 100 metres from the beach. It also provides easy access to Skiathos Town * All rooms have air conditioning, satellite TV, mini-fridge * Swimming pool * Tavern * Restaurant * Watersports * Pool bar.



★★★★★ SKIATHOS PALACE HOTEL

Skiathos Palace Hotel affords sensational views over Koukounaries Beach, combining natural splendour with the hotel's stunning modern décor * This hotel is perfectly located in the exquisite centre of Skiathos, making it accessible to a number of marvellous beaches * Facilities include restaurant and bar, swimming pool and tennis court * Nearby: waterskiing, wind surfing, parasailing, pedalos, canoeing, bare footing, banana and rings. You can also learn to scuba dive in the nearby school, just 1 km away.

Memorable Must-do Experiences

- 1) Visit Koukounaries, the largest and most popular beach.
- 2) Explore Lalaria by boat, an amazing area of sea caves and wild rocks.
- 3) Stroll through The Castle of Skiathos, a former Medieval Town, built on a rocky cliff.



Memorable Must-do Experiences

- 1) Visit Glossa village, built amphitheatrically along a mountainside and surrounded by a pine forest.
- 2) Relax on Panormos, considered among the most beautiful beaches on Skopelos.
- 3) Stroll through the Monastery of Timios Prodromos constructed in the 17th century.

SKOPELOS

Skopelos is an idyllic island that hosted the production of the movie 'Mamma Mia'. Romantic scenery, beautiful beaches, caves, blue water, pine-trees, picturesque little houses, many ancient churches and lovely neighbourhoods create a picture of unrivalled beauty.

★★★★★ SKOPELOS VILLAGE HOTEL

Situated on Skopelos island where the green forests meet the blue Aegean Sea. The hotel complex is situated just 600m away from the port and has a unique view of the open sea and the picturesque town thus making it the ideal environment for relaxation and refreshment by the sea. This is also where the Mamma Mia stars stayed * The inspired, colourful interior decoration and the practical arrangement of the rooms provide a fully equipped kitchen, satellite TV, free Wi-Fi, mini safe and air conditioning * Bar * Restaurant * 2 Swimming pools * Massage treatments * Children's play area.



Memorable Must-do Experiences

- 1) Stroll through Chania Old town and Rethymno Old town.
- 2) Walk the Samaria Gorge and Agia Irene Gorge.
- 3) Visit the Aquaworld Aquarium.

CRETE

Crete is a land of wine and olives, majestic mountains and endless beaches, sleepy days and festive nights. Crete is blessed with an exquisite 1000km long coastline dotted with numerous coves, bays and peninsulas. The island is of great historic importance as it was the home of the Minoan civilization and boasts the amazing archaeological site at Knossos.

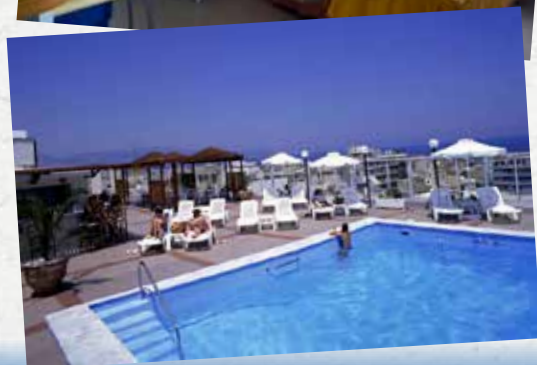
★★★★ LATO BOUTIQUE HOTEL - HERAKLION

Set in an exquisite downtown location across the old city harbour offering spectacular panoramic views of the Venetian Fortress and the Mediterranean Sea and just a few minutes walk from the famous archaeological and historical museums. The central city bus station provides easy access to all major sites of Crete * Every hotel room has been designed in a distinct & particular way so to form a unique "personality". Room facilities include free high speed internet access, mini safe, satellite TV, mini bar and air conditioning * 3 Restaurants * Bar * Conference facilities * Mini gym * Jacuzzi * Steam room.



★★★★ ASTORIA CAPSIS HOTEL - HERAKLION

Located in the Heraklion city centre's shopping, entertainment and business area and next to the Archaeological Museum. Places of various interests can be reached within walking distance * 131 Rooms are fully equipped with air conditioning, mini bar, satellite TV and mini safe * Wi-Fi * Swimming pool * Business and internet station * Restaurant * Pool and snack bar * Coffee café * Conference facilities.



Memorable Must-do Experiences

- 1) Take a day trip out to the Island of Antiparos.
- 2) Visit the Naoussa traditional village.
- 3) Relax on the local beaches and enjoy the many watersports.

PAROS

Paros is considered to be one of the most beautiful Greek islands with exquisite beaches. It is a typical Cycladic island with traditional little villages of whitewashed houses with blue doors and windows, narrow streets, flowered balconies, town squares with churches and a hilly countryside with endless vineyards. Many beaches offer watersport facilities.

★★★★ KANALE'S RESORT

Kanale's Rooms & Suites is a small boutique hotel located in Paros, within 5 minutes walking distance from the heart of cosmopolitan Naoussa village and its beautiful little fishing port * The hotel is set on different levels on a hillside, just a minute away from Piperi Beach, a prime location with amazing views of the Aegean Sea across to Mykonos * In house facilities include a swimming pool and Jacuzzi, TV lounge and a roof top restaurant with views and high standards of gastronomic excellence.



★★★★ ST. ANDREA SEASIDE RESORT

Built on the north side of the island, just 1,5km from the cosmopolitan town of Naoussa, with a view of the white rocks of the region * 56 Rooms and suites are tastefully decorated with Blanc D'Ivoire furniture and offer views of the sea, pool or beautiful gardens. General room facilities include a balcony, mini bar, LCD TV, DVD player, mini safe, air conditioning and Wi-Fi * Watersports (on Kolymbithres beach) * Restaurant * 2 Bars * Swimming pool * Massage services.



IOS

Memorable Must-do Experiences

- 1) Explore the traditional village of Chora.
- 2) Visit the Church of Holy Mary Gremiotissa.
- 3) Enjoy the many watersports and vibrant nightlife.

★★★★ FAR OUT HOTEL & SPA

Set against the mountains with stunning views over Mylopotas Beach and the crystal waters of the Aegean Sea, this is the perfect retreat for body and soul. Ideally positioned, you can enjoy a walk down to the beach or take a short bus ride into the pretty Village of Chora with its shops, restaurants and lively nightclubs * All rooms are modern in design combined with classic Cycladic architecture offering breathtaking sea views and private balconies with air conditioning, mini bar and satellite TV * Swimming pool * Pool bar * Restaurant * Spa * Gym * Massage / Beauty Centre * Sauna * Jacuzzi.

★★★★★ LIOSTASI IOS HOTEL & SPA

Situated within close proximity to the beach and the picturesque village of Ios * The luxury sea view rooms and suites offer an opulent atmosphere that combines the islands architecture with contemporary accommodation. Room facilities include satellite TV, air conditioning, mini bar, mini safe and free Wi-Fi * Pool bar * Spa * Swimming pool * Jacuzzi * 2 Restaurants * Small picturesque church for weddings.

For many years Ios was considered as a party island, but recently tourists have discovered the many alluring aspects of this unique and truly romantic island. The island has 75km of beautiful white sandy beaches, often voted best in Europe. The magnificent architecture is highlighted by glorious sunsets and vigorous nightlife makes this a favourite party destination.



KOS

The island of Kos is one of a chain of easterly islands that hug the coast of Turkey. With mostly low hills cycling is the most popular form of transport and there are a number of bike rental shops on the island. The long sandy coastline makes this an ideal beach holiday destination and there are also interesting archeological sites.

★★★★ ALEXANDRA HOTEL KOS

As the tallest building in the city, the Alexandra Hotel Kos offers amazing views of the harbour, the medieval castle and various city gardens. It is located in the centre of Kos town, 100m from the harbour and 400m from cosmopolitan beaches with exciting watersports. It is also within close proximity to the museum, important archaeological sites and nightlife * The contemporary rooms are spacious with private balcony and features include air conditioning, radio, fridge, mini safe, satellite TV * Gym * Sauna * Internet corner * Lounge bar * Conference facilities.

Memorable Must-do Experiences

- 1) Visit Zia, a beautiful, mountainous village in the centre of the island providing amazing views.
- 2) Take time out on Mastihari, an exotic beach with soft, white sand and emerald water.
- 3) Discover Nerantzia Castle, built in the 14th century.



RHODES



Memorable Must-do Experiences

- 1) Visit the Medieval Old town.
- 2) View the Palace of the Grand Master.
- 3) Explore the sites of the Acropolis of Lindos and Rhodes.



Memorable Must-do Experiences

- 1) Visit the Castle and the old town.
- 2) View the Archaeological museum of Naxos.
- 3) Enjoy some of the most beautiful beaches of Naxos.



The famous island of Rhodes has plenty to offer its visitors. Whether you're exploring the harbour and old town, heading to spectacular Lindos with its mini Acropolis, or sunning yourself on the many golden beaches, you're in for a treat. Rhodes is a duty free port, meaning excellent shopping, and the many restaurants, bars and pulsating nightlife ensure that you stay spoilt for choice.

★★★★ MEDITERRANEAN HOTEL

Set in the heart of Rhodes' most popular sandy beach near the Aquarium, next to the Casino and minutes away from Rhodes city and close to the Medieval City, Castle of the Knights and Ancient Ruins * 241 Spacious and elegantly furnished guest rooms and suites, most of them benefiting from outstanding views of the Aquarium, beach and the blue Aegean Sea. All rooms offer a private balcony, air conditioning, satellite TV with PAY TV movies, high speed internet access and fully stocked mini bar * Restaurant * Coffee café * Swimming pool * Watersports.

NAXOS

Considered to be one of the most beautiful and authentic islands in the Cyclades. Impressive mountainous landscapes, endless golden sandy beaches, a beautiful Venetian capital and many traditional white painted villages, fishing harbours, Byzantine churches, ruins of ancient temples and an active nightlife is what you can expect from this quaint town.

★★★ ALKYONI BEACH HOTEL

Alkyoni Beach Hotel is set on the beach of Agios Georgios and surrounded by lush gardens * The hotel's relaxed atmosphere invites you to delight in the sumptuous treats at the tavern-restaurant bursting with home-made delicacies made from the freshest local ingredients * Take a splash in the pool, after a long day lounging in the sun poolside * Take a stroll to the town just minutes away. The hotel's friendly service and hospitality will give you the most memorable holiday experience.

★★★★ PORTO NAXOS

Located just minutes from the heart of Naxos Old Town and the sandy beach of Agios Georgios * The property successfully combines the authentic Cycladic architecture with classic elegance and modern amenities and services * Visit local temples and explore the island's cafes, bars and discos * The hotel offers thirty three spacious rooms - opt for a standard or superior room and enjoy moments of absolute relaxation overlooking the garden or the impressive swimming pool * Facilities include a restaurant, pool and kiddies pool, pool bar, sauna and massage, tennis and cycles.

EXPLORE ANCIENT GREECE



SELF-DRIVE EXPLORING BEAUTIFUL GREECE 9 NIGHTS

For those who wish to travel at their own pace this self-drive package is perfect. It includes car hire and hotel accommodation for a total of 9 nights. Highlights include Athens, Mycenae - a mighty kingdom of ancient Greece, the beautiful village of Dimitsana and Olympia - home to the ancient Olympic stadium and the temples of Zeus and Hera. You then cross by ferry to the island of Zakynthos with its spectacular beaches. The route back to Athens is via the elegant new suspension bridge to the mainland to Arachova. Walk along the Sacred Way to the Temple of Apollo. Have lunch in Delphi before returning to Athens.



WONDERS OF GREECE (ATHENS & CLASSICAL TOUR) 6 NIGHTS

For those seeking a cultural tour of the ancient sites of Greece this is the perfect itinerary. The first two days are in Athens where the city tour takes in the Temple of Zeus, Hadrian's Arch, the Olympic Stadium and the Acropolis - home to the Parthenon. You then travel by coach to Mycenae, Nafplion and Olympia, home to the original Olympic Games. No tour would be complete without visiting Delphi, home to the ancient Oracle, Kalambaka, and Meteora with its breathtaking views of serene monasteries up in the clouds. Then back to Athens for a last minute tank up on culture.

TURKEY

Turkey is one of the longest permanently inhabited countries in the world. This transcontinental country straddles both Europe and Asia across the Bosphorous and has witnessed the rise and fall of great kingdoms and empires. Here east meets west in a spectacular fusion of ancient customs and mysticism through to modern technology. This large and beautiful country is blessed with a temperate climate and an extensive coastline of magnificent sandy beaches and sparkling blue waters. The Turkish people have an unrivalled reputation for friendliness and hospitality and welcome visitors with open arms. Markets laden with a wide assortment of gifts and crafts abound, the cuisine is a delight to the palate and the nightlife is legendary. Turkey has a wide appeal for all – from sun-worshippers through to those who seek history and culture.



GENERAL INFO

Capital of Turkey: Ankara.

Language: Turkish. English is widely spoken.

Visa: South African passport holders require visas.

Currency: Turkish Lira.

When to go: Spring through to Autumn (March to October) are the best times to visit Turkey.

Time: GMT+3 / UTC+3 (no change in spring & summer season)

What things cost

These are approximate prices and may vary according to hotels and seasons (Lira)

Transportation:	35 - 70 Lira per day (Depending on where you're headed)
Beer:	12 - 15 Lira
Meal in restaurant:	20 - 25 Lira upwards
Bottle of wine:	55 - 60 Lira upwards
Ice cream:	3 - 5 Lira
Baklava:	40 Lira per kg upwards

Hotel Gradings: The hotel star gradings shown are those of the respective country or supplier.

Prices: Please refer to www.thompsons.co.za or contact Thompsons Holidays.

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

- * Kurban Bayram (Muslim Festival)
- * Istanbul Fashion Fair
- * Istanbul International Film Festival
- * International Theatre Festival
- * International Istanbul Music Festival
- * Istanbul International Jazz Festival
- * Izmir Fair International Folk Dance Festival



SIGHTSEEING EXPERIENCES



ISTANBUL

Bosphorus Cruise Tour

Cruise down the mighty Bosphorus for panoramic views of the ancient and fascinating city, which straddles the straight and has one foot in Asia and the other in Europe. This busy waterway is a narrow straight that joins the Black Sea with the Sea of Marmara and by extension via the Dardanelles, the Aegean and the Mediterranean Seas. Make sure not to miss the soaring minarets of the Blue Mosque on the horizon.

Ottoman Splendours

Be immersed into visual delight that is the Hippodrome – the sporting and social centre of Constantinople. Then continue on to view the capital of the Byzantine Empire, where you may see the Egyptian Obelisk. The tour then explores the ancient Blue Mosque and the Topkapi Palace. The ancient Topkapi Palace was the residence of the Ottoman Sultans, now it is a museum housing a collection of ancient Chinese ceramics and jewellery. A central feature is the Spoonmaker's Diamond, which is considered the third largest diamond in the world.



Istanbul by Nights

This fabulous night out in Istanbul will immerse one into the lively culture. Delight in a sumptuous fine-dining dinner, paired with a choice of wine or beer. Be mesmerised by the delightful entertainment that follows your dining experience – shake your belly with the lively belly dancing or enjoy the Anatolian cultural folklore entertainment.

Full Day Mosaics of Istanbul

The inspiring tour invites you to discover Istanbul in a full-day adventure. The tour begins with a visit to Topkapi Palace, then continue to the Blue Mosque, with its cascading domes and minarets. Explore the beautiful ancient underground – view the Cistern Basilica and Hagia Sophia. Then indulge in a sublime Turkish meal and source some bargains at the Grand Bazaar.

SIGHTSEEING EXPERIENCES



BODRUM

Bodrum Castle and Mausoleum

Enjoy a half day morning tour and drive to Bodrum Castle which hosts one of the best underwater archeological collections in the world and then visit the ruin of King Mausoleus tomb.

KUSADASI

Ephesus & Virgin Mary's House

Start the day visiting the great ancient site of Asia Minor, Ephesus with its temples, library, market and spectacular theatre and then continue to the Virgin Mary's cottage and the Temple of Diana.

Pamukkale & Hierapolis Tour

Drive to Pamukkale and visit Hierapolis with its thermal bath, theatre, Necropolis and the unusual lime cascade.



CAPPADOCIA

Full Day Cappadocia Tour

Visit the Dervent and stop by at Pigeons Valley to experience the moon-like topography of Cappadocia and then continue to the Open Air Museum in Göreme with rock cut churches. En route back, stop at the pottery making town of Avanos.

Hot Air Balloon Tour

Receive an early morning transfer to the departure point for a spectacular balloon tour. Experience a flight of awesome scenery through volcanic valleys, fairy chimneys and caves with the sunrise over Cappadocia.



Memorable Must-do Experiences

- 1) Visit the old town and the highlights - Topkapi Palace, St. Sophia, Blue Mosque, Underground Cistern.
- 2) Take a cruise on the Bosphorus.
- 3) Visit the Blue Mosque and Grand Bazaar.

ISTANBUL

The mystical city of Istanbul, previously Constantinople, straddles two continents - Europe and Asia. Hugging the shores of the Bosphorus River this ancient city is a melting pot of cultures and religions and a drawcard for both shoppers and serious tourism. Travel down ancient avenues in a tram or marvel at the magnificent Blue Mosque. No visit would be complete without viewing the Hagia Sophia, Topkapi Palace and the aptly named Grand Bazaar.

★★★★ CENTRUM HOTEL ISTANBUL

This hotel is ideally located in central Nicosia * The comfortable rooms adorned with modern décor and facilities create a cosy atmosphere for its guests * The hotel's location is convenient for its guests, who may easily access the buzzing old part of the city and enjoy its ambiance * Explore ancient paved roads, restaurants, cafés, shops, museums, galleries and churches * The hotel's restaurant invites you to sample the delectable Cypriot cuisine and have a glass of wine as you watch the passers-by.



★★★★★ RECITAL BOUTIQUE

The Recital Boutique Hotel invites you to enjoy its spectacular panoramic views that overlook Istanbul and the Marmara Sea * The bright décor, with classic furniture and luxurious fabrics offer guests a unique atmosphere * The hotel's location is ideal for visitors, as it's just minutes from the bazaar and the Blue Mosque, perfect for sightseeing monuments, architecture and exploring the city's history.



Memorable Must-do Experiences

- 1) Join the party on the north side of Bodrum Peninsula, the place to go for glitzy clubs and sophisticated waterside bars.
- 2) Rejuvenate yourself at the elegant stone hammam in Bodrum's centre for an invigorating and truly traditional spa treatment.
- 3) Queue for one of Bodrum's top historical attractions: the ruins of Mausoleum of Halicarnassus, one of the 'seven wonders' of the Ancient world.

BODRUM

Bodrum is one of the Aegean hotspots for holiday makers and fun seekers. Home to artists, musicians and jewellery craftsmen, the quaint streets are lined with whitewashed buildings filled with arts, crafts and vibey cafes. Dance the night away at the world famous open-air Halikarnas disco with laser lights that can be seen 30km away.

★★★★★ EL VINO HOTEL & SUITES

Located in a prime location, ideal for entertainment and spectacular sunsets over Bodrum. Overlooking the Bodrum Castle, you capture all the city's excitement, energy and cultural diversity * Spacious and comfortable rooms with air conditioning, a kitchenette, coffee maker, satellite TV, mini bar, mini safe and balcony or terrace * Jacuzzi * Restaurant * Lounge * Swimming pool.



★★★★★ DORIA HOTEL BODRUM

Exquisite and elegant white-washed appearance, with glorious views over the Aegean Sea * This hotel is just minutes from the beach, and provides an ultimate haven of relaxation and luxury for its guests * Immerse yourself into the extensive spa facilities on offer at the hotel or indulge in the views and put your feet up on a lounge by the infinity pool * The sophisticated rooms extend onto balconies with breathtaking views * Make some time to treat yourself to something sublime at the hotel's restaurant.



Memorable Must-do Experiences

- 1) Visit Ephesus.
- 2) Have lunch at one of the beautiful restaurants in the harbour area.
- 3) Take a day trip to Samos.

★★★★★ CHARISMA DELUXE HOTEL

Towering over the Aegean Sea with outstanding views, the hotel is just a 15 minutes walk from Kusadasi's shopping and entertainment centres * 133 Deluxe rooms offer you the unique taste of technology and comfort with views of the ocean. The rooms are equipped with jacuzzi, satellite TV, air conditioning, mini bar, mini safe and free internet * 2 Bars * 2 Restaurants * Patisserie * Kids club * Watersports and diving centre * Mini golf * Fitness room * Turkish bath * Wi-Fi * Conference facilities.

KUSADASI

One of Turkey's principle holiday resorts. Powdery white beaches and the warm sea make this the perfect location for watersports. For culture lovers there are many important historical sights, notably Ephesus and Cappadocia.



Memorable Must-do Experiences

- 1) Take a day trip to Sedir Island (Cedrea), known as Cleopatra Island with its crystal clear waters and excellent golden sandy beach.
- 2) Visit Marmaris Aqua Parks offering loads of different water slides and activities.
- 3) Shop up a storm at the Marmaris Grand Bazaar.

★★★★★ KERVANSARAY HOTEL MARMARIS

Immerse yourself into a world of luxury with modern décor beautifully combined with the lush greenery of the surrounds and the breathtaking views of Marmaris's mountains and forests * Enjoy a splash in the pool, indulge in the spa and hotel facilities or relax on the nearby beach * With so much on offer, you'll be returning again and again to relish all that this hotel has to offer.

MARMARIS

The palm studded promenade in Marmaris separates the charming ancient village from the busy harbour filled with international yacht owners seeking sun and fun in this southern Turkish port on the Mediterranean. The warm climate and water make this a favoured location for watersports and outdoor dining on fine Turkish dishes.



Memorable Must-do Experiences

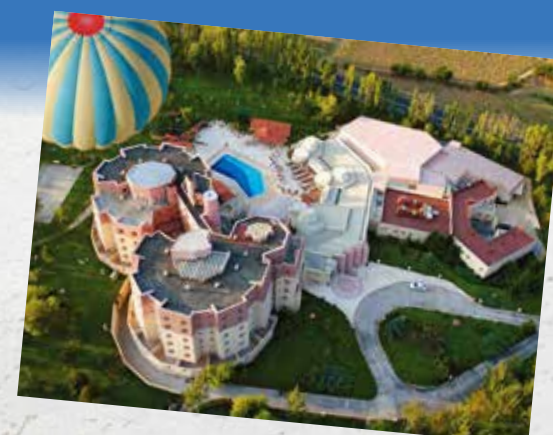
- 1) Visiting Goreme open-air museum which is an UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- 2) Hot air balloon trip.
- 3) Wine tasting with the wines of Cappadocia.
- 4) Visiting / joining pottery workshop in Avanos during the daily tours.
- 5) Visiting one of the underground cities of Cappadocia.

★★★★★ KAPADOKYA LODGE

Kapadokya Lodge combines history and comfort with its architectural design inspired by the region's historic architecture * This is perfectly paired with the hotel's sophisticated sumptuous cuisine and luxurious accommodation * Feel the magic of Cappadocia and enjoy a dip in the hotel's pool or sip cocktail from the bar * Discover the ancient streets, the old chimneys and the valleys, a few steps from the hotel.

CAPPADOCIA

Cappadocia, in the central area of Turkey, is the nearest thing to a fairytale setting you will ever experience. The soft limestone of the area has eroded to form stone pillars or chimneys with mushroom shaped peaks, many with troglodyte dwellings carved into them and some still inhabited.



ESCORTED COACH TOURS



CLASSIC TURKEY - 11 DAYS (10 NIGHTS)

The Classics of Turkey tour includes the following highlights: day tour of Istanbul including: the Topkapi Palace Museum, Hippodrome, the Blue Mosque and the famous Grand Bazaar. We also visit Ankara; the Mausoleum of Ataturk, the father of modern Turkey; Cappadocia; the underground city of Sarratl; Pamukkale with its lime pools and hot springs; coastal Kusadasi; Ephesus with its 2000 year-old marble streets, theatre, Library of Celsius, Hadrian's Temple and St. Mary's stone cottage; Pergamum; Troy with its famous wooden horse; Canakkale; Gallipoli, the site of the battles during WW1. Enjoy a farewell dinner in Istanbul.



THE GLORIES OF TURKEY - 15 DAYS (14 NIGHTS)

Enjoy a full-day tour of Istanbul, including a visit to Topkapi Palace Museum, residence of the Ottoman Sultans, as well as the Hippodrome, the Blue Mosque, famous for its blue ceramic tiles, then St. Sophia and the famous Grand Bazaar. In the morning, depart for Gallipoli, the site of many battles during WW1, then cross the Dardanelles to Canakkale. Visit Troy with its famous wooden horse and setting of the Trojan War. Then, continue to Pergamum to visit the ancient Medical centre in Asclepion. The next stop is the famous ruins of Ephesus, with 2,000 year-old marble streets, a theatre, the Library of Celsius and Hadrian's Temple. Take a short drive to see St. Mary's stone cottage. Drive through the lush valleys to Pamukkale, the Cotton Fortress, with white lime cascades formed by hot mineral springs. Visit ruins of the Roman health spa of Hierapolis. In Antalya we pay a visit to the ancient Greek city of Perge, famous for its Temple of Artemis. Then travel to Cappadocia, enjoy a hot air balloon tour at sunrise over city, see its volcanic valleys, fairy chimneys and caves. Continue to Avanos, Pasabagi and the Red Valley. This tour then moves to Istanbul.



5* LUX* BODRUM RESORT & RESIDENCES - TURKEY



FAST FACTS

LOCATION:

North Coast of Turkey
Distance From The Airport:
15km away from Milas -
Bodrum International Airport

ACCOMMODATION:

91 rooms, 19 chic residences
and 1 beach villa all with
panoramic sea views in
high definition

RESTAURANTS & BARS:

Stella / Beach Rouge
Café LUX* / The Bar

SPA:

4 therapy rooms / 1 couple
massage / fitness Area /
outdoor pilates & yoga area

POOL:

Indoor & outdoor swimming
pools

THINGS TO DO IN BODRUM:

Bodrum Castle & Bodrum
Underwater Archeology
Museum tour / Visit to
Mausoleum of King Mausolus
/ Tours to ancient cities of
Ephesus, Miletus, Didyma,
Priene / Visit to the temple of
Artemis / Traditional Bodrum
Gulet tours / Sailing classes
and sailing competitions /
Shopping at local markets
/ Wine tasting & vineyard
visits / Culinary & cooking
workshops / Gold courses /
Village tour for carpet making
experience / Hike & bike tours

ALL INCLUSIVE: Option
available

CONFERENCE: Facilities
available

Wi-Fi: Complimentary in all
areas

LUX* Bodrum's cool, contemporary and cosmopolitan spirit has arrived on the Turkish Riviera. Set exclusively on a private peninsula and staggered amidst landscaped gardens you'll discover cutting-edge design, legendary LUX* service and high definition panoramas from every tier. It's unique hillside to beachfront setting delivers big sky horizons and cooling sea breezes in an area of outstanding natural beauty just 20 minutes from Milas-Bodrum Airport.

91 super-chic rooms and suites, 19 residences and a one-of-a-kind villa are flooded with natural light, and promise a fresh new perspective on indoor / outdoor living with sleekly designed balconies or terraces, private gardens and pools. Fresh and innovative dining includes Stella, with floor-to-ceiling windows, ocean vistas and a menu that evolves with the time and your mood - to Beach Rouge, an effortlessly cool ocean front hangout taking you from day to night, and into the early hours. Spaces are designed to relax or refuel, from all day drinks and sweet treats from the baristas at Café LUX* - to the best cocktails and spectacular sunsets at The Bar. Add a sleek spa, private coved beach, elevated pool deck and play area to inspire young imaginations, plus all the surprises you've come to expect from us - and LUX* is a breath of fresh air in Bodrum.





CROATIA

Croatia boasts a long coastline and is also home to over 1000 beautiful islands, like pearls sprinkled in the clear waters of the Adriatic Sea. Ancient fortified UNESCO cities overlook the ocean and the undulating hills are home to picture perfect walled towns surrounded by farmlands and vineyards.



GENERAL INFO

Capital of Croatia: Zagreb.

Language: Croatian. English is widely spoken.

Visa: South African passport holders do require Schengen visas.

Currency: Kuna.

When to go: Spring through to Autumn (May to October) are the best times to visit Croatia.

Time: GMT+2 (GMT+3 April to October).

What things cost

These are approximate prices and may vary according to hotels and seasons (€ Euro)

Pizza : 4 to 7 € Euro

½L Beer : 2 to 4 € Euro

½L Wine : 2 to 4 € Euro

Cappuccino : 1 to 3 € Euro

Coke : 2 € Euro

Hotel Gradings: The hotel star gradings shown are those of the respective country or supplier.

Prices: Please refer to www.thompsons.co.za or contact Thompsons Holidays.



SIGHTSEEING EXPERIENCES



SPLIT HOP-ON HOP-OFF BUS

Discover one of Croatia's oldest cities on this hop-on hop-off tour by open-top bus. This tour covers several areas, with nine stops along the route – that may be explored at one's own pace. Enjoy this panoramic journey, which moves through major landmarks and museums. Some of the main highlights include Diocletian's Palace, the town Promenade, Olympic Games facilities, Bacvice Beach and the Hill of Majan. The bus then returns to the city centre.

GAME OF THRONES TOUR

On this tour, you will be taken through all the parts of the old city of Dubrovnik where some of the most memorable scenes were filmed, including: The Pile Gate where King Joffrey was faced with a citizens' riot and pelted with dung, and the Lovrijenac Fort where the unsuccessful attack on King's Landing - the Battle of Blackwater - took place. The seemingly endless fortified walls will be seen from Lovrijenac Fort where Tyrion Lannister and Varys took a stroll. All of the filming locations and commentary from your local guide will be accompanied by A4-sized photos that show the screen-shot from the appropriate episode. You may even hear stories and gossip from behind the scenes as some of our guides were extras and stand-ins.

PLITVICE LAKES TOUR

Situated in a dense forest, Plitvice Lakes are considered one of the most beautiful natural phenomena in the world. Sixteen lakes, connected by 92 waterfalls, cascade through its picturesque surroundings. Wooden walkways will take you along the enchanting lakes. The River Korana creates beautiful waterfalls, lakes and caves that make this national park, under UNESCO protection, one of the most precious natural sights in Croatia. Every season offers a unique experience, giving you the chance to enjoy this untouched natural wonder.

Includes: Coach transfers from Split, English speaking guide, entrance to the park with boat and train ride in the park



Memorable Must-do Experiences

- 1) Take a scenic walk on the Lungomare walking path on the Adriatic which attracted the royal families to come to Opatija many years ago.
- 2) Take a photo next to the 'Girl with a seagull' which is a frequent theme on posters and postcards that showcase Opatija.
- 3) For the adventurous, climb mountain Učka or head for the islands of Cres and Lošinj where there are excellent diving localities and even diving with dolphins.

★★★★ HOTEL BRISTOL

Located in the centre of Opatija, built in 1906 in the Habsburg-era style * 78 Elegant rooms and suites with views of either the Mediterranean Sea or the classically inspired Angiolina Gardens. All rooms feature satellite TV, mini bar, mini safe, air conditioning and Wi-Fi * Conference facilities * Coffee house * Spa with whirlpool, sauna, steam bath and massage * Fitness area * Restaurant.

★★★★★ HOTEL SV. JAKOV

Delight in all that Opatija has to offer at this exquisite, historic beach property * This hotel is beautifully housed in an Austro-Hungarian villa that dates back to the last century * The rooms showcase historical elements and antique flare, which is paired with well-equipped modern décor and amenities * It is here that you will be taken back in time * Take a moment to revel in the elegant cuisine and fine wines at this five-star hotel.



Memorable Must-do Experiences

- 1) Visit the Museum of Contemporary Art, the largest museum ever built in Croatia and the first to be built in Zagreb.
- 2) Browse the Dolac market, a landmark for locals and tourists alike.
- 3) Take a 1924 pre-war city tram at the Technical Museum every Sunday, ideal for families.

★★★★ HOTEL LAGUNA

This private haven is just minutes away from the city's prime landmarks like The Gothic Cathedral, Croatian National Theatre, Mimara Museum and Archaeological Museum * 155 Rooms and 5 suites offer air conditioning, mini bar and satellite TV * Meeting room * Hair and beauty salon * Women only fitness studio * Café bar * Free Wi-Fi in cocktail bar lobby.

★★★★★ HOTEL DUBROVNIK

Located on the main square, Ban Jelacic and a few steps away from the most important cultural landmarks and institutions, shopping zone, open markets, bars and lively cafes, parks and walkways * Classic and comfortable rooms exudes modern practicality offering magnificent views of either the historic Upper Town, Kaptol Medvednica and hills, or courtyard. General room facilities include free Wi-Fi, air conditioning, mini safe, mini bar, satellite TV * Fitness Centre * Business Centre * 2 Restaurants * Bar * Conference facilities.

OPATIJA

Opatija is said to have the best views of the stunning coast of Croatia. This was the fashionable resort of the Austro-Hungarian Empire which accounts for the many grand residences that have now been converted into elegant hotels. Walk along the waterfront promenade which stretches for 12km.

ZAGREB

The city of Zagreb started out as two hilltop settlements which were united into an elegant European city under the influence of Vienna. The neo-Gothic twin-towered cathedral is a must see as is the Dolac market with its stalls groaning under fresh produce, surrounded by eateries serving regional cuisine.



DUBROVNIK

Lord Byron was so smitten by the beauty of Dubrovnik that he eulogised it as the "Pearl of the Adriatic". Nothing much has changed since then and this medieval walled city will charm you too. The old city is a joyful mixture churches and museums, boutiques and open-air cafes.



★★★★ HOTEL LERO

Ideally located in the centre of Dubrovnik and within walking distance to the old town and local businesses * Unlike other hotels in the Dubrovnik area, Lero is open throughout the year * Most of the 155 contemporary designed rooms offer sea views and standard features include air conditioning, satellite TV and free Wi-Fi * 2 Restaurants * Bar * Conference Room * Wellness Centre with jacuzzi, sauna, steam bath, waterbed and swimming pool * Free Wi-Fi * Miramare Bay Beach, 300m away * Nearby sports hall with 6 tennis courts.



★★★★★ HOTEL RIXOS LIBERTAS DUBROVNIK

This hotel is ideally located with breathtaking views of the city, surrounded by the exciting and spectacular landscape of the Adriatic Sea * This hotel combines superior comfort and luxury in relaxing and peaceful accommodations * Facilities include restaurants and bars, swimming pool, gym, tennis, scuba lessons, kayaking and biking * If relaxation is what you're after head to the spa and indulge in a world of rejuvenation with a host of services.

SPLIT

Overlooking the Adriatic Sea and backed by the rugged Dinaric Mountains this splendid Dalmatian city resembles a living museum. Ancient Roman architecture forms a backdrop to modern-day life, with boutiques and charming restaurants dotted along the revamped waterfront.



Split Harbour

★★★★ HOTEL SLAVIJA

Situated in the heart of Split and steps away from Split Cathedral, Diocletian's Palace, Gregory of Nin Statue, the Mestrovic Gallery and Peristil Square * 25 Air-conditioned guestrooms provide complimentary wireless high-speed internet access and satellite TV. Most of the bright and comfortable rooms offer private balconies with panoramic views * Laundry facilities * Complimentary Wi-Fi in public areas * Safe deposit box at the front desk * Mountain bike rentals, rowing and canoeing nearby.



★★★★★ HOTEL CORNARO

Hotel Cornaro is a seamless fusion of the traditional and modern, perfectly paired with a passion for service * This hotel is ideally located with exquisite historical surroundings, which the hotel seamlessly compliments by the addition of modern elegance and the latest technology * Facilities include restaurants and bars, wellness centre and massages, rooftop jacuzzi with panoramic views.

Memorable Must-do Experiences

- 1) Catch outdoor jazz at the Troubador.
- 2) See Dubrovnik in 5D at the Visia Dubrovnik 5D Teatrum, an unusual attraction that will take you through the history of Dubrovnik by means of holograms, lasers and videos.
- 3) Take the cable car to Srđ.

Memorable Must-do Experiences

- 1) Savour Split's finest seafood at the upscale restaurant Noštromo.
- 2) Climb Split's cathedral.
- 3) See how the Romans lived by visiting the Archaeological Museum.

PLITVICE LAKES

The Plitvice Lakes National Parks is made up of some 300 square kilometres of forested hills, dappled with 16 lakes and hundreds of waterfalls. This is Croatia's oldest and largest National Park and offers the visitor spectacular sights and is a UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE site.

Memorable Must-do Experiences

- 1) Take a guided walking tour.
- 2) Kayak in the warmer months.
- 3) Cycle through the beautiful park.

★★★★ HOTEL JEZERO

Hotel Jezero is beautifully located with surrounding natural splendour in the heart of the Plitvice Lakes National Park * Delight in the luxurious and comfortable accommodation in an exquisite setting * Sample the extraordinary culinary delights on offer at the hotel, and rejuvenate body and soul in the extensive spa facilities.

Memorable Must-do Experiences

- 1) Get closer to nature with a stop at a small inn (Hvar "konoba") to taste real home cooked food.
- 2) Discover Vrboska, a beautiful little island otherwise referred to as the 'Little Venice'.
- 3) Explore the fortress Fortica (Spanjola) and the Cathedral of Hvar.

★★★★★ AMFORA HVAR GRAND BEACH RESORT

Tucked into a tranquil bay, surrounded by a lush pine grove and only a short ten-minute walk from the historic city of Hvar * Modern and elegant rooms are equipped with free Wi-Fi, mini bar, mini safe, air conditioning and flat screen TV * Exquisite cascading pool * Conference facilities * Gym * 4 Restaurants * 2 Bars * Beach club.

Memorable Must-do Experiences

- 1) View the permanent Exhibition of Religious Art - The Gold and Silver of Zadar.
- 2) Visit the Museum of Ancient Glass.
- 3) Walk through Kalelarga (Wide Street), the main and most famous street in the city.

ZADAR

A historic old town with Roman ruins, medieval churches, cosmopolitan cafes and quality museums. It's not overrun with tourists and its two unique attractions - the sound-and-light spectacle of the Sea Organ and Sun Salutation - need to be seen and heard to be believed. Zadar is a key transport hub with superb ferry connections to Croatia's Adriatic islands, Kvarner, southern Dalmatia and Italy.

★★★★★ HOTEL KOLOVARE

Hotel Kolovare boasts spectacular views overlooking the Zadar canal and the islands * Its location also makes it ideal for discovering nearby parks and the city centre * This hotel showcases modern design, in its historical building and setting * The guest rooms display modern décor and luxurious amenities for its guests to enjoy. Dine at the hotel's restaurant, have a glass of wine at the wine bar or splash in the cool waters of the swimming pool.

CROATIA ESCORTED COACH TOUR



CROATIAN RHAPSODY COACH TOUR (9 DAYS / 8 NIGHTS)

Your tour commences in Zagreb where your guide will take you on a walking tour of the city to visit the fortified, medieval Upper Town. You will see St. Mark's church and many fine old buildings. Travel to Opatija in the afternoon, situated on the picturesque Kvarner Bay, which was the favourite spa resort of European aristocracy. Here you visit the Istrian Peninsula and the 2000 year old Roman Colosseum located in Pula. The Plitvice Lakes are located in the most beautiful and oldest national park in Croatia under UNESCO protection - consisting of 16 lakes connected by waterfalls. We now head to Šibenik, rich in cultural and historical monuments including the famous Cathedral. Split is at the core of the sprawling palace of the Emperor Diocletian built at the turn of the 4th century. The old town is a charming maze of narrow streets. Completed in the 13th century, the old city of Dubrovnik has remained largely unchanged since. Its medieval ramparts encircle the city which you can walk on to view the town below. Here you find yourself joining the evening promenade down the broad, stone-paved avenue known as Stradun.

LAKES & MEDITERRANEAN (9 DAYS / 8 NIGHTS)

Your escorted coach tours will take you from Italy to Slovenia, Austria and then into Croatia. After a walking tour of Venice you will head for Slovenia with a cruise on Lake Bled and a visit to Bled Castle. The next stop is in Austria in the historic county of Carinthia. We continue to the charming Klagenfurt. Croatia provides you with superb scenery and sightseeing including Rovinj with the most picturesque streets in Istria, then 3,000 year old Pula, Opatij filled with elegant villas and hotels, Fuzine to enjoy a boat ride on Lake Bajer, the breath-taking Plitvice Lakes and finally Split, the UNESCO World Heritage gem on the Adriatic coast. On a walking tour of Split you explore Diocletian's Palace, built by the Roman emperor Diocletian at the turn of the 4th century. Farewell dinner in a typical Dalmatian restaurant.



CROATIA SELF-DRIVE



HIGHLIGHTS OF CROATIA (10 DAYS / 9 NIGHTS)

Discover Croatia at your leisure with the convenience of your own rental car. Begin in Poreč, a charming ancient town renowned for its Byzantine mosaics and bursting with historical sites to explore. Spend two nights in Opatija, a beautiful coastal town which invites you to discover its ancient villas, amphitheatre and breathtaking views. Petrčane, the picturesque historical city is ripe for discovery. This coastal town, with its Romanesque characteristics and a massive belfry above the façade offers panoramic views. Plitvice offers a host of natural wonders, worthy of a stop to do some exploring of the ancient forests, lakes and waterfalls. End your adventure in Dubrovnik, the exquisite city on the Adriatic Sea. This ancient and perfectly preserved city features a cultural old town. Delight in a drink at one of the cafés.

2 Nights in a 4* Grand Hotel Palazzo or similar - 1HB+1BB

2 Nights in 4* Hotel Palace Bellevue Opatija or similar - 1HB+1BB

3 Nights in 4* Hotel Pinija Zadar or similar - 1HB+2BB

1 Night in a 2* Hotel Plitvice or similar - 1HB

1 Night in 4* Hotel Dubrovnik Zagreb or similar - 1BB

Please call Thompsons for more details and other recommended self-drive itineraries.



CROATIA LAND & CRUISE TOUR



There is no better way to see Croatia than on land and from the sea. Your guided coach tour takes you to ancient Zagreb, the breathtaking Plitvice lakes and the Unesco protected city of Split. Here you will board your elegant sailing ship to sail the clear blue waters to the walled harbour city of Dubrovnik. The islands of Croatia are called 'pearls of the Adriatic' for good reason.

10 NIGHTS TOUR

Includes: Airport to hotel transfer on arrival and harbour to airport on last day • 3 Nights accommodation in 4* hotels with breakfast daily and 1 dinner • Visitor's taxes during land part • Sightseeing: Zagreb, Plitvice, Split, Hvar, Korcula, Dubrovnik • 7 Night cruise with breakfast and dinner daily on board one of our Premium ships (M/S Eos, M/S Ocean, M/S Azimut or similar) • Accommodation in air-conditioned twin or double cabins on the lower deck • Captain's dinner on board the ship

The tour starts in Zagreb with a half day walking tour through the historic Upper Town, where, among other sites, you will see St. Mark's Church, the Cathedral, the Government Palace and the Lotrscak tower. We then drive to the Plitvice Lakes, Croatia's oldest and most beautiful National Park, consisting of 16 lakes, connected through a series of waterfalls. Guests will hike through the park, take boat ride over the emerald-green Kozjak Lake and take the road train back to the entrance.

Take a tour of the monumental city of Split, under UNESCO protection, with an abundance of Roman architecture – of special interest is the Diocletian Palace. We now sail along the Dalmatian coast to Makarska Riviera to spend the afternoon swimming at one of the beautiful beaches.

Travel via the Peljesac peninsula to view the salt lakes in Mljet National Park. Visit the old abbey and church in the middle of the large lake, inside the National Park.

Our arrival in Dubrovnik is the highlight of this cruise where we take a guided tour of the city. Take a walk through Stradun, a promenade inside the city walls. We recommend a walk on top of the nearly 2,000m long city walls.

This morning is free to explore the beauty and history of Dubrovnik on your own before sailing to the isle of Sipan and the town of Trstenik on the Peljesac peninsula, to swim and spend the night. Visit a local winery and return for a party and the Captain's dinner. The next morning we sail to Korcula, the birthplace of Marco Polo. On arrival in the late afternoon we will enjoy a guided tour.

Sail to the Pakleni Islands for lunch and swimming and then on to Hvar, the longest island in the Adriatic, home to a Renaissance cathedral with its original tower. Hvar offers abundant entertainment and is full of restaurants, bars and cafes that are open long into the night. Our next stop is the island of Brac to swim at one of the most famous beaches in Dalmatia – Zlatni Rat. Nearby Bol is a typical fisherman's town turned into a popular tourist destination. We return via the Riviera to Split for our last night on tour.

Departs on selected dates only.

CRUISING CROATIA

KVARNER BAY - KL1 7 NIGHTS

For this cruise all you need is a T shirt and costume. The itinerary starts in quaint Opatija on route to Krk island with colourful cafés on the waterfront. The cruise continues to Rab island known as the "island of love". Cruise from Rab towards Zadar along Pag island with a swim stop at tiny Maun island. Next is Molat or Olib island for the Captain's dinner party on board. After breakfast and morning swim, cruise towards Ilovik, the island of flowers and Lošinj, known as the sunshine island. The next stop is at Cres island, covered in forests as well as vineyards and olive tree plantations. Return to Opatija with spectacular views of famous Opatija Riviera.

SOUTHERN EXPLORER - KL2 7 NIGHTS

Enjoy seven lazy days cruising along the Dalmatian coast from Split calling at beautiful small ports on the way. The cruise is on board a Premium category ship with modern facilities, en-suite facilities and air-conditioning. Ports of call on this round trip itinerary include Makarska where you dock right in the centre of the old city, Dubrovnik with its impenetrable fortifications, Mljet with its inland lakes and monastery and Bol with its Golden Horn beach which stretches out into the sea. Join a wine tasting of local wines at Trstenik before returning to Split.

SOUTHERN PEARLS - KL7 7 NIGHTS

Lose yourself for seven unforgettable days sailing on the southern Adriatic Sea, hugging the coast and island hopping. Relax and let the captain and his crew (especially the chef) take care of you. During the day swim, snorkel, sunbathe and explore the rugged beauty of the Adriatic coast. A full breakfast and lunch are served on board and in the evenings you are free to enjoy local cuisine in a good restaurant and to discover old churches or other historical monuments in ancient villages.

KL DELUXE CRUISE 7 NIGHTS

Travel in style along the Dalmatian Coast on board this elegant 'Deluxe' category motorised ship with luxurious cabins and air-conditioning. Enjoy drinks at the cocktail bar and dine in style. Relax on the deck with a book or take a swim in the turquoise ocean from the swimming platform. Your 7 night round trip cruise will meander along the coast from Split to Dubrovnik calling at small ports that are inaccessible to larger ships. Your itinerary includes Korcula, Mljet with its salt lakes and Benedictine monastery, the walled city of Dubrovnik, Hvar and Bol with its famous beach.



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