Post-FAM Tour
Chios | May 16-19, 2019

COST:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupancy</th>
<th>Price (per person)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Double Occupancy</td>
<td>$599</td>
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<tr>
<td>Single Occupancy</td>
<td>$798</td>
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WHERE: Chios

A mastic-scented island with fascinating history. Much as Chios is famous for its mastic, it is not the only “magic” one can find on this island. Alongside its rich history starting from the Neolithic Age and including adventures with Saracene pirates and the Turks during the Greek Revolution, Chios also claims to be the birthplace of Homer. It was certainly the birthplace of eminent Greek politicians and writers.

The most famous local product is mastic. Known throughout the world, mastic is an appellation d’origine contrôlée (= controlled designation of origin) product growing only in the South of Chios, where it has been raised since the 8th-7th century A.D. This natural product is cultivated entirely by hand and is nowadays used in medicine, pharmacy, dentistry and cosmetics. At the central market of the town of Chios, you can buy mastic-based jams and sweets, brandies and, of course, local delicious ouzo!

Chios, part of the Northeastern Aegean island complex, is home to 53,000 people today. Explore the places where these people build their day-to-day lives: either in medieval settlements where Genoa and Chios meet, or in beautiful small towns by the sea, and participate in religious festivities where the locals make their own colorful history.

WHEN: May 16-19, 2019
ITINERARY:

- **Thursday, May 16**
  - Arrival Transfer to the CHIOS CHANDRIS hotel
  - Afternoon tour to Nea Moni, Anavatos & Avginsona

- **Friday, May 17**
  - Full-day tour to South Chios (Pyrgi, Mesta & Emporios (Lunch included)

- **Saturday, May 18**
  - Full-day tour North Chios (Volissos, Agia Markella, Pytios, Kardamyla, Lagada – Lunch included
  - Farewell to Chios Dinner in Yalos tavern

- **Sunday, May 19**
  - Departure Transfer to Airport

WHAT’S INCLUDED:

- Hotel accommodation at the Chios Chandris hotel, including daily breakfast and taxes. *The special accommodation tax of €4 per room night is not included and must be paid by guests directly to the hotel upon check-out.*
- All airport group transfers, sightseeing tours, excursions and meals per itinerary

EXCLUSIONS:

- Air fare to/from Chios. Recommended flight to book: May 16 Aegean/Olympic flight OA272 at 11:05AM; May 19 Aegean/Olympic flight OA273 at 12:15hrs
- Tips & Gratuities
- Personal expenses e.g. tel., laundry, etc.
- Meals not stated in the program.
- Any items, services or beverages not specifically mentioned in the program

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION:

- This FAM tour will operate with a minimum of 8 participants.
- Your registration is non-refundable unless the FAM is cancelled by ASTA or the Supplier.
- We encourage you to not book your flights until your FAM is confirmed by ASTA.
- Travel insurance is not required but is highly recommended.
- Have questions? Contact [meetings@asta.org](mailto:meetings@asta.org)

FULL ITINERARY:

**DAY 1: THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2019**

- Depart Athens airport. Flight not included; recommend you book Aegean/Olympic flight OA276 at 09:55AM
- Arrive Chios airport at 10:40am. Upon arrival Chios airport, meet & greet and transfer to the Chios Chandris hotel
- Check-in at the Chios Chandris hotel
- Afternoon tour to **Central Chios Nea Moni – Anavatos – Avgonyma – Lithi**
We start from the town of Chios towards west, in order to pay a visit on some of the most distinguished examples of byzantine, medieval and monastic architecture on the Island. Following a mountainous route through a dense pine tree vegetation, with panoramic views to the town, the valley and the coasts of Minor Asia, we arrive to the calm and beautiful west coast with wonderful sunset and the picturesque beaches.

Our first stop is Nea Moni, the most important byzantine monument that is under the protective umbrella of UNESCO. It was founded in the 11th century and was distinguished amongst others, because of the art that was build and decorated, as well as its direct relationship with Constantinople and the emperor’s influence. According the monastic tales, the emperor Constantine the Gladiator has financed the building of the monastery, after the finding of the Holy Icon of Panagia, by three Chios monks Nikitas, Ioannis and Josef, under a myrtle tree where the monastery is standing now. For many centuries was a religious and financial center of Chios, while its decline started in the 19th century, with finance difficulties at first and then with the catastrophe of 1822. The mosaics of Nea Moni are amongst the most important examples of the Byzantine art, thanks to their exceptional quality and the facts that are projects by artists that were coming from the best workshops of Constantinople.

Next stop is the medieval village of Anavatos, known as well as the “Mistras of the Aegean”. The whole village is “climped” up on top of a hill, at the edge of the cliff. Its natural fortification states that was build in order to be a look out for pirates, as well as to be protected and defended. A walk around the village /fortress, with its stone build houses that today are deserted, gives us the image of a dead city, and it has being declared preservable settlement. After we vist the well preserved medieval settlement of Avgonyma, with its tall stone houses, the narrow alleys and the magnificent view towards the Aegean Sea.

✓ In the late afternoon, return transfer to the hotel. For this evening, we suggest you experience one of the nearby walking distance tavernas, such as the TSIKOUDO.

DAY 2: FRIDAY, MAY 17, 2019

✓ Full day tour to North Chios: Agia Markella – Volissos-Pytios-Kardamyla-Lagada

Today’s day is dedicated to the north part of the Island, with the exceptional beauty of Amani, the dense vegetation and the spring waters, the castle villages and the beautiful beaches of west Chios. Following the central road of Chora – Volissos and ascending the plateau of Aepos with the panoramic view towards the town and the coast of Minor Asia, we arrive at the picturesque village of Katavasi. Here lived as a hermit the saint Matrona Hiliopolitida. We stop for coffee at the beautiful café of the village, under the plain and fir trees, with spring waters around us and a magical natural scenery.
Afterwards we depart for the Holy Monastery of Agia Markella, patron of Chios. We pray and pay our respects and if you want you can visit the place, where the saint died as a martyr in 1.500AD at the edge of the beach. To this spot today is welling spring water, known as holly water (agiasma).

Lunch will be served at the Agia Markella restaurant
- 1st course family style beetroot salad-tzatziki-cheese pie – zucchiniballs
- Main course: Moussaka
- Beverages: Water and soft drinks
- Dessert: fruit or local pastry sweets

Our next stop is Volissos, the head village of northwest Chios. It is a place with great history since the ancient times that has preserved its traditional architecture. The village impresses the visitor from the first glimpse, with its impressive castle that dominates the scenery and dates from the byzantine period. We will take a tour on the pebble paved alleys, to see restored stone houses with the flat ceramic roofs.

Afterwards we depart for Pytios, one of the most important villages of north Chios with medieval character, built as the villages on the south of Chios. We take a walk to the picturesque alleys, that are ending to the dominant two level tower with the irregular shape which standing on the cliff.

Our last stop is Lagada, which is built in a wide and fertile valley that stretches to the sea. It is a traditional fishing village and a place of a nautical importance, with a very picturesque coast, where alongside are lined traditional tavernas offering fresh fish and sea food, tasty mezedes and local cuisine.

✓ Transfer back to the Chios Chandris hotel in the late afternoon. For this evening, we suggest you experience on your own one of the nearby walking distance tavernas, such as the OZERI “H GONIA”

DAY 3: SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2019

✓ Full day tour to South Chios: Pyrgi-Mesta-Emborios-Armolia

A tour of south Chios and the Mastic Villages (Mastihohoria). It is fortified villages, looking like a castle, with internal narrow alleys, byzantine churches, virgin beaches and the fine scent of Mastic covering the area. Here, only to the southern part of the Island, since the ancient times, is thriving the mastic, from the mastic bearing bushes that made Chios known all over the world. With a big production of clear mastic and by products that have many purposes and use.
Starting from the Chios town, our 1st stop is Pyrgi, the biggest medieval village and probably the most interesting on the cultural and anonymous architecture side. A walk to the narrow alleys, will opens a new perceptive, with the houses with pyramid like roof, (known as travaka) and the painting decorations on the external walls the so called “Xysta” (scratched). It is an engraving technique on the external coating of the façade, with alterations of the black and white. At the villages’ square you can visit the big church of Kimisi tis Theotokou and the church of Agii Apostoli, a well preserved byzantine monument, which is a small replica of the temple of the Nea Moni monastery, with exceptional wall frescoes from the 13th century.

Then an optional visit to the Cave of Olympians, which features a rich and impressive stalactite and stalagmite decoration and is one of the most impressive and beautiful caves in Greece. Our next stop is the medieval village of Mesta, which is characterized as a listed monument and is one of the most well-preserved fortresses of the Genoese state. During your tour, you will notice that the village has only one entrance and one exit, while the walk through its labyrinthine alleys under the arches that form the balconies will offer you a unique experience and trip to the medieval atmosphere of the 14th century. We visit the two most important churches of the village, the church of Panmegiston Taxiarhon at the central square and the church of Old Taxiarhis with the exceptional wooden crafted iconostasis.

Lunch will be served in Mesta
- 1st course family style Greek salad, mastelo, small fish (atherina), kalamari.
- Main course choice of meat with sauce (giouvetsi), or chicken
- Beverages: Water and soft drinks
- Dessert: fruit or local pastry sweets

We have some free time at the central square and we depart for the coastal hamlet Emborios. The beach “Mavra Votsala” (Black Pebbles) is unique thanks to its black pebbles that give a dark color to the sea. That unique characteristic is because the now non active volcano Psaronas. In older times the volcano had erupted resulting the beach with lava and ash.

Afterwards we visit the Mastic museum, where you can discover the traditional expertise on the mastic cultivation and come to know closer the actual plant, its properties and its products. Our last stop is the Armolion hamlet, where its people are masters on the ceramic art. Here you can visit the shops that exhibit and sell ceramic products, pitchers, jugs, cups, or other decorative artifacts, that
are distinguished examples of the traditional ceramic and pottery art, where its routes are vanished through the centuries.

✓ In the afternoon we return to Chios town.
✓ Farewell to Chios dinner at the YALOS restaurant (walking distance from the Chios Chandris)
  • 1st course family style Greek salad – tzatziki – Mastelo – Potatoballs – Cheeseballs.
  • Main course: Choice of Pork or steak or beef burger or chicken fillet
  • Beverages: Water and Wine
  • Dessert: fruit or local pastry sweets

DAY 4: SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2019
✓ 10:30 AM Departure Transfer from the Hotel to the Chios Airport for flight OA273 departing at 12:20PM to Athens. Upon arrival in Athens at 13:05hrs, connect to your home-bound flight.

HOTEL:

Chios Chandris Hotel

Lapped by the Aegean on two sides, the CHIOS CHANDRIS HOTEL enjoys a great location in the island’s charming capital, overlooking the lively portside waterfront and offering panoramic sea views and a full suite of amenities and services in a resort type environment.

The Chios Chandris hotel is within easy walking distance of the town’s commercial center, bustling market place, picturesque old quarter and fascinating museums, and just a step away from the Maria Tsakos Public Benefit Foundation and the Homerion Cultural Center, offering excellent and convenient conferencing facilities, the Chios Chandris is an ideal destination for both leisure and business guests. The hotel is also a perfect base for exploring the island’s many attractions, landmarks and monuments, including the renowned mastic-producing villages, well preserved medieval castle towns, and the World Heritage listed 11th c. Byzantine monastery of Nea Moni, as well as its many unspoiled beaches, making the Chios Chandris hotel a favorite choice for discerning travelers year-round.