

# INTERVIEW

As Star Clippers increases capacity on Greece sailings this summer, **Alice Barnes-Brown** gets insider insights into exploring the region

**Q. Where does Star Clippers go in Greece?**

**A.** When we're in Greece, normally we sail round-trip from Athens. Our itineraries include the Southern Cyclades, the Northern Cyclades and the Sporades (where you have Skopelos, the island of *Mamma Mia!* fame). We also have a route we take from Athens, through the Adriatic all the way up to Venice.

**Q. What can guests expect during port stops?**

**A.** Sometimes we go to big islands such as Mykonos or Santorini, but being a smaller ship, we can also visit beautiful little ones such as Amorgos or Patmos. As a cruise director, I need to be aware of what's happening with the beach stops and shore excursions and make sure the supplier will be on time and everything's in order, then get feedback. I support guests on Star Clippers' excursions, as well as the ones who have their own plans. Some people just want to walk around, so I provide details about the restaurants and what to do.

**Q. Can you tell us what a typical day's sailing is like?**

**A.** On our Northern Cyclades itinerary, the first day is at sea. We have a safety drill and a bit of familiarisation with the ship: what you can do, what you cannot do, where the pools are etc. After that, we have the captain's presentation and I give a little information about the onboard activities, such as mast climbing or board games at the Tropical Bar. I'm in charge of the entertainment, sports team and the masseuse, so I have different things to organise. At certain times of the day, I also do talks – about the ocean, ship or ports of call.

**Q. What's your favourite place on board?**

**A.** The bow, where the sails and nets are. It's the best place to be early in the morning – the most beautiful time. I like to meet with the chief officer, who is normally on that shift, and enjoy 10-15 minutes of peaceful sailing in the sunrise.

**Q. Why do you love sailing in Greece?**

**A.** The Greek islands are beautiful – especially when you have islands on either side of you. Depending on the season, some of the islands are dry, but if you get closer to the Peloponnese, it's very green. Another nice thing about sailing the Aegean is that passengers can combine traditional Greek islands with places like Spetses, which has Italian influences.

**Q. Any advice for first-time Star Clippers passengers?**

**A.** Get acquainted with the ship. We have a different concept – it's a unique sailing adventure – so relax with a cocktail and come and see how friendly the staff are!



**Axel Melchior**  
cruise director, Star Clippers