

Port Worker Dies After Loading Cruise Ship Luggage in Greece

By Donna Tunney Sep 2, 2025



Luggage Operations at Port of Piraeus (Photo Credit: Drew Rawcliffe)

Key Aspects:

- A 62-year-old dock worker collapsed while loading and unloading luggage at the Port of Piraeus and later died.
- Two cruise ships were embarking and debarking guests when the tragedy happened on September 1, 2025.
- The worker, who received CPR and was taken to a nearby hospital, was not an employee of the port but rather of a private company.

A sad incident unfolded at the Port of Piraeus, the cruise port for Athens, on September 1, 2025, when a dock worker passed out while loading and unloading luggage. He later died.

The 62-year-old man, Pantelis Georgiou, received CPR and first aid by local ambulance personnel and was transferred to a nearby hospital, but was unable to be resuscitated.

Dock workers like Georgiou handle thousands of pounds of luggage at ports across the globe every day.

Most cruise passengers are oblivious to such port operations, simply taking for granted that their luggage will be properly handled by dock staff and local porters on embarkation day and again at the conclusion of their vacation.

However, the work can be hard, and in Athens in late summer, temperatures typically hover in the 90 to 95 degree Fahrenheit range. The worker was employed by a private company, and it is not clear which cruise ship's luggage he was loading or unloading.

Just three ships were in the Port of Piraeus on September 1, 2025.

Celestyal Cruises' *Celestyal Discovery* was embarking guests for a 4-night Iconic Greek Islands voyage while Royal Caribbean's *Voyager of the Seas* was welcoming guests on a 7-night Greek Isles cruise from Athens to Rome.

Both ships were likely debarking guests as well.

The third ship, Viking Ocean Cruises' *Viking Vesta*, was making a port call during her 28-night Mediterranean's Iconic Shores cruise from Barcelona to Istanbul. No guests would have been embarking or debarking that ship.

Local union authorities in Piraeus were quick to react to the man's death with calls for an investigation.

"We express our deep sadness and grief over the death of our colleague Pantelis Georgiou and we ask the competent services to investigate the exact causes of our colleague's death, so that any responsibilities can be properly attributed," **a statement from the Union of Permanent and Probationary Port Workers (PLO) said.**