

From the Greek Islands to the Black Sea

From **7/28/2020**
to **8/6/2020**

Ship: **LE BOUGAINVILLE**

From **Athens**
to **Istanbul**

Please note: this cruise is aimed at French-speaking guests.

Fall under the spell of the **Mediterranean's key sites** during this brand-new **10-day** cruise offered by **PONANT**. With Athens as the departure point, board *Le Bougainville* for an unforgettable sailing experience discovering exceptional islands, cities and ancient sites.

Your cruise will begin with the visit of the island of Hydra, famous for its incomparable light, followed by the exploration of two of Greece's major sites, from Nafplion: the **Mycenae ruins** and the **Epidaurus theatre**, both UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Le Bougainville will then head towards **Paros**. Nestling in the heart of the Cyclades archipelago, this island reputed for its sublime white marble offers a real concentration of Greek beauty, from whitewashed houses to olive groves to ancient monuments.

A little further north, you will arrive on **Mykonos**, with its iconic windmills, beaches, countless churches and whitewashed houses.

Following this port of call, *Le Bougainville* will leave Greece to reach **Kusadasi**, in Turkey. An old fishing village with history going back 5,000 years, not far from the Ephesus site, the town is now one of the country's most famous seaside resorts.

Your trip will continue with a crossing of the **Dardanelles Strait**, followed by the discovery of the city of **Nessebar**, on the edge of the Black Sea. The architecture of this city established over 3,000 years ago is extremely rich, inherited from the Greek, Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman civilisations that succeeded one another here.

Lastly, you will reach Istanbul, where your cruise to the Eastern Mediterranean will draw to an end.





The information in this document is valid as of 2/24/2020

From the Greek Islands to the Black Sea

YOUR STOPOVERS :

ATHENS

Embarkation 7/28/2020 from 16h00 to 17h00

Departure 7/28/2020 at 18h00

The Greek capital city is located on the edge of the Saronic gulf, in the east of the country. It bears a plural name in reference to the first villages that surround the **Acropolis**. You will be enchanted by the rocky plateau presided by its monuments listed as UNESCO World Heritage. In the city below, you can visit some of the liveliest districts in Athens: **Plaka**, with its maze of colourful streets, and where, in the evenings the drifting aroma of moussaka and garlic prawns will tickle your taste buds. The **National Archaeological museum** and the Cycladic Art Museum are also some of the city's key attractions and allow visitors to discover Athens' cultural past.

HYDRA

Arrival 7/29/2020 midday

Departure 7/29/2020 late evening

This unusual gem belonging to the Saronic islands is located to the east of the Peloponnese. There are no cars here. Named after the island, the harbour town is layered up the slopes of a mountainous bay. You may be surprised to see beautiful **stone mansions**. These are traditional here, as are the multi-coloured *caïques* along the quays. Further along the shore, you will discover the Historical Archives Museum. Collections from Athens National History Museum are exhibited in the elegant **villa Koundouriotis**.

NAFPLION

Arrival 7/30/2020 early morning

Departure 7/30/2020 late afternoon

The engaging town of Nafplion is staggered up green hillsides of the Argolic Gulf, to the east of the Peloponnese. Don't be surprised by its extremely varied cultural heritage. Some of the must-see visits are the ancient agora on the plateau of Akronafplia, Italianate arcades in **Syntagma square** as well as the baroque fortress of **Palamidi** on a hillside of the same name. At the top of the hill, views of the gulf and the surrounding mountains are simply awesome. If you want to chill out by the water's edge, walk along the **Arvanitia promenade** to a beautiful creek in the shade of cedars and cypresses.

KAMARES, SIFNOS

Arrival 7/31/2020 early morning

Departure 7/31/2020 late evening

Nestling in the Cyclades, the harmonious and much less crowded **island of Sifnos** is home to many treasures. Exploited since antiquity for its gold and silver mines, this little-known pearl boasts gentle landscapes and is a botanical paradise. The rich endemic flora can be admired along the island's mountain paths that have been trodden for thousands of years. From the main port of Kamares, set off to discover the nearby sandy beach which runs along a lagoon and whose dunes are covered in sea daffodils. The picturesque **fortified village of Kastro** is another of the island's wonders. Sitting atop a hill overlooking the Aegean Sea, this spot, where people have lived since prehistoric times, is very much an open-air museum.

PAROS

Arrival 8/1/2020 early morning

Departure 8/1/2020 early evening

Famous for its white marble, the island of Paros is located in the Cyclades. Along the quays of **Parikia**, its main town, you'll see Byzantine churches and neoclassical buildings. To make the most of the turquoise waters, you can stop over in **Naoussa**. This little fishing port is bounded by a very beautiful cove and offers more than one café to sit and unwind.

DELOS

Arrival 8/2/2020 early morning

Departure 8/2/2020 midday

This legendary Cyclades island of Delos stands just a few miles southwest of Mykonos. The ceremonial solemnity of this **ancient holy sanctuary** will not leave you indifferent. The sheer size and importance of this UNESCO World Heritage site which covers over half of the island is thrilling in itself. From the Stoa of Antigonos, the **Terrace of the Lions**, to the carved marble animal statues, you will make discovery after discovery, against a backdrop of the Aegean stretching to the horizon. The theatre steps on the hillside are a particularly good place from which to enjoy the expansive view.

MYKONOS

Arrival 8/2/2020 early afternoon

Departure 8/2/2020 late evening

Nicknamed "little Venice", Mykonos is famous for its **Alefkandra** district where houses are built right on the water's edge. Their multi-coloured loggias are emblematic of this Cyclades island, as are the **pelicans** and **windmills**. You can get close up to the birds on the quaysides of the old port. Up on the hillside, you can see the windmill sails turning. In the cobbled streets of the pedestrian centre, bougainvillea bedeck immaculate facades. As you weave in and out of the little streets, snatches of coastline will undoubtedly call you to the island's beaches, the quietest of which can be found on the northern coast.

KUSADASI

Arrival 8/3/2020 midday

Departure 8/3/2020 evening

The attractive **seaside resort of Kusadasi** is located in a gulf on the western coast of Turkey. You can bathe there in clear waters or stroll along the coastal walk, in the shade of palms. In the historical district, you can take a mosey down the narrow streets and explore the colourful shops in the bazaar. Close by, the **Ephesus archaeological site** in the hillsides provides an opportunity to discover the ruins of one of the most famous cities of Antiquity.

SAILING IN THE DARDANELLES

Arrival 8/4/2020

Departure 8/4/2020

The **Dardanelles Strait** is an emblematic, 61 km-long waterway connecting the **Aegean Sea** with the **Sea of Marmara**. It is strategic for controlling passage between the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea. Like the Bosphorus, or Strait of Istanbul, it separates Europe from Asia. A surface current flows along it, while a more saline undercurrent flows in the opposite direction. Along the strait, you will be able to admire **hilly landscapes** and arid lowlands brightened by **fields and groves of olive trees**.

NESSEBAR

Arrival 8/5/2020 midday

Departure 8/5/2020 late afternoon

Built on a peninsula on the south-west coast overlooking the Black sea, the town of Nesebar possesses age-old history. Founded by the Greeks and then colonised by the Romans and the Ottomans, it is a listed UNESCO World Heritage site. You can ramble in the **historical district** without worrying about cars, because the area is **fully pedestrian**. As you mosey through the streets, look out for the houses with wooden corbels, and, in the squares, admire the Byzantine sanctuaries and their astonishing multi-coloured adornments, like **Saint-Paraskevi church**. The Archaeological Museum has a very rich collection of ancient vestiges. Don't forget to try the local speciality, touloumbitchki dipped in syrup.

ISTANBUL

Arrival 8/6/2020 early morning

Disembarkation 8/6/2020 at 07h00

Located on the Bosphorus, Istanbul is one of the most beautiful of all Turkish cities. Named Byzantium when founded by the Greeks, and then Constantinople under the Roman Empire, this city is steeped in history and, for this reason, is a listed UNESCO World Heritage site. Located on Sultanahmet hill, the great **Blue Mosque**, the mysterious **Hagia Sophia** and the vast **Topkapi palace** and its countless mosaics, dominate the Marmara Sea. In the Beyazit district, the **Grand Bazaar** allows to discover elegant covered passages. A little further away, delicate aroma of **loukoum** and spices will draw the visitors' attention at the Egyptian Bazaar.