

Secrets of the Greek Islands

From **8/6/2021**
to **8/14/2021**

Ship: **LE LYRIAL**

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



Avec la présence exceptionnelle à bord d'Alain Choquette.

Sail the Aegean Sea with **PONANT** and set off to discover **Greece and its famous islands**: the Cyclades and the Dodecanese Islands.

From **Athens**, *Le Lyrial* will take you to exceptional sites during a **9-day Mediterranean cruise**.

You will discover **Patmos**, known as the “Jerusalem of the Aegean Sea”. This island, where Saint John is said to have written the Apocalypse, offers unique landscapes combining white sandy beaches and rocky coves.

Le Lyrial will then approach the **Santorini archipelago** in an incredible cruise along the foot of its **caldera** formed during an eruption in around 1600 BC. **Sublime white villages** such as Thera and Oia are built on top of the cliffs falling vertically into the sea.

Then, you will discover **Delos**, a minuscule island in the Cyclades archipelago. According to mythology, Apollo was born here. Like an **open-air museum**, Delos offers unique testimony of the civilisations that followed one another in the Aegean world.

Next comes **Mykonos**, its beaches and windmills, with **Alefkandra**, a district that is typical of the island, with houses built right on the water's edge. *Le Lyrial* will then make a detour via **the island of Hydra**, famous for its incomparable light, before calling at the charming town of **Nafplio**, the departure point for visiting the famous Epidaurus Theatre and the Mycenae site, listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

Your cruise will end in Athens, the mythical city dominated by the Acropolis and its monuments that form the **most extraordinary architectural and artistic collection** bequeathed by Ancient Greece to the rest of the world.



The information in this document is valid as of 10/29/2020

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

ATHENS

Embarkation 8/6/2021 from 16h00 to 17h00

Departure 8/6/2021 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.

SYMI

Arrival 8/7/2021 midday

Departure 8/7/2021 evening

A simply ravishing gem in the Dodecanese, Symi is located north-west of Rhodes. This island of cypress forests, vineyards and olive orchards, possesses a capital city of the same name that is as colourful as the surrounding countryside. The charm of the port district of **Gialos** is not to be missed: its quaysides are lined with picturesque houses with multi-coloured facades. You can get to the upper town by car or climb the 500 steps up the **Kali Strata** ramp. The second option offers superb viewing points of the coast and gorgeous turquoise waters.

PATMOS

Arrival 8/8/2021 early morning

Departure 8/8/2021 early evening

Patmos is one of the legendary must-see islands in the Dodecanese. This is where Saint John resided, presumed author of the last book in the Bible. The **cave of the Apocalypse** and the **Saint John Monastery** are dedicated to him. These sites, which are listed by UNESCO as World Heritage, are located at the top of a hillside planted with vines and orchards. On the shore, the crystalline coves of Kambos and Lampi offer absolutely gorgeous swimming areas.

KARAVOSTASIS, FOLEGANDROS

Arrival 8/9/2021 early morning

Departure 8/9/2021 mid afternoon

Folegandros is a treasure concealed in the Cyclades archipelago. You approach this mountainous island from the

south-east side of continental Greece. The blue and white houses built on a steep plateau in its main town, **Chora**, is a feast for the eyes. Why not climb up to the belvederes and admire the view of the Aegean and the port of **Karavostasi**. The jetty in Karavostasi port leads to a lovely beach where you can have fun in the turquoise water. Higher up, you can pay a visit to **Ano Meria**, a village surrounded by terrace farms. Don't forget to explore its local art museum where you'll discover the island's safeguarded traditions.

SAILING IN THE SANTORINI CALDERA

Arrival 8/9/2021

Departure 8/9/2021

Sailing in the waters of **Santorini caldera** is breathtaking. The gigantic scale of the unique setting, the majesty of the high cliffs surrounds this **ancient crater** that was flooded in 2000 years before Christ, is one of the highlights of the cruise. The colourful whites, greys, reds of the volcanic rocks, the blue of the Aegean Sea and the immaculate perched villages form a unique and marvellous spectacle.

DELOS

Arrival 8/10/2021 early morning

Departure 8/10/2021 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 8/10/2021 midday

Departure 8/10/2021 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.

PAROS

Arrival 8/11/2021 early morning

Departure 8/11/2021 late 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.

HYDRA

Arrival 8/12/2021 early morning

Departure 8/12/2021 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 8/13/2021 early morning

Departure 8/13/2021 evening

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.

ATHENS

Arrival 8/14/2021 early morning

Disembarkation 8/14/2021 at 06h00

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