

Treasures of the Aegean Sea

From **10/08/2021**
to **17/08/2021**

Ship: **LE BOUGAINVILLE**

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



Sail the Aegean Sea with **PONANT** and set off to discover **Greece** and its famous islands: the **Cyclades** and the **Dodecanese** Islands. From Istanbul, *Le Bougainville* will take you to exceptional sites during a new **8-day Mediterranean cruise**.

Your cruise will begin with the exploration of two of Greece's major sites, from Nafplion: the **Mycenae ruins** and the **Epidaurus theatre**, both UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

You will set sail for the island of **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.

The next stop will be at **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.

You will also discover **Mykonos**, an island of white windmills, sinuous lanes and whitewashed buildings, with a small port where fishing boats and dinghies lazily bob at the foot of the terraces.

Le Bougainville will then make a detour via the **island of Hydra**, famous for its incomparable light and the calm of its small streets on which all motorised traffic is banned.

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 28/09/2021

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

ATHENS

Embarkation 10/08/2021 from 16:00 to 17:00
Departure 10/08/2021 at 18:00

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.

NAFPLION

Arrival 11/08/2021 early morning
Departure 11/08/2021 late afternoon

The engaging town of Nafplion is staggered up green hillsides of the Argolic Gulf, to the east of the Peloponnese. Do not 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.

SYROS

Arrival 12/08/2021 early morning
Departure 12/08/2021 late afternoon

Located to the west of Mykonos, Syros is an attractive **island in the Cyclades**. It has been inhabited since early antiquity, as you'll discover by visiting the **archaeological museum** in Ermoupoli, its capital built in the shape of an amphitheatre and stretching out over two hills. Don't miss the **historical district**, where the beautiful houses are evidence of the island's strategic location for trade, between the East and the West. Admire the superb **Agios Nikolaos Church** or **the Church of the Assumption of Virgin Mary**. Further on, the **medieval town** of Ano Syros allows to admire charming stairways and arched passageways, as well as small, white houses decorated with bougainvilleas.

PATMOS

Arrival 13/08/2021 early morning

Departure 13/08/2021 late afternoon

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.

DELOS

Arrival 14/08/2021 early morning

Departure 14/08/2021 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 14/08/2021 early afternoon

Departure 14/08/2021 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 15/08/2021 early morning

Departure 15/08/2021 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 16/08/2021 early morning

Departure 16/08/2021 late afternoon

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**.

ATHENS

Arrival 17/08/2021 early morning

Disembarkation 17/08/2021 at 07:00

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