

Autumn Escape in the Aegean Sea

From **24/10/2021**
to **30/10/2021**

Ship: **LE BELLOT**

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 **Athens**, *Le Bellot* will take you to exceptional sites during a **7-day Mediterranean cruise**.

The **island of Syros** is the next port of call on your cruise: the Cyclades capital will surprise you with its authenticity and neo-classical architecture.

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.

You will make a port of call in **Mykonos**. This is the 'Queen of the Cyclades', 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. Mykonos cannot fail to charm you.

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.

Your ship will take you to the southern Aegean Sea to discover the capital of Crete, **Heraklion**, built on a hillside overlooking the port and encircled by formidable **Venetian walls**.

Afterwards, you will set sail to **Nafplio**, the departure point for visiting the famous Epidaurus Theatre and the Mycenae site, listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO before calling at **the island of Hydra**, famous for its incomparable light before calling at the last step of your cruise: 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 4/12/2021

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

ATHENS

Embarkation 24/10/2021 from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Departure 24/10/2021 at 6:00 pm

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.

SYROS

Arrival 25/10/2021 early morning

Departure 25/10/2021 late afternoon

Located to the west of Mykonos, Syros is an attractive **island in the Cyclades**. The island has been inhabited since ancient times and Ermoupolis, its capital, built in an amphitheatre, is spread over two hills. You may wish to visit its **archaeological museum** and 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.

DELOS

Arrival 26/10/2021 early morning

Departure 26/10/2021 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 26/10/2021 midday

Departure 26/10/2021 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.

PATMOS

Arrival 27/10/2021 early morning

Departure 27/10/2021 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.

HERAKLION, CRETE

Arrival 28/10/2021 early morning

Departure 28/10/2021 late afternoon

Heraklion, the capital of **Crete**, is the island’s most populous city. The hustle and bustle of this seaport is an integral part of its charm. It is built on a hillside overlooking the port and is encircled by **impressive Venetian walls**. From the top of these, you will be able to enjoy one of the most beautiful views of the city. The old town is teeming with small shops, squares, cafés and vibrant architectural evidence of the city’s long history. The **Palace of Knossos** illustrates the wealth and power of its legendary sovereign, King Minos. The **archaeological museum** houses one of the largest collections of Minoan artefacts and is worth a visit.

NAFPLION

Arrival 29/10/2021 early morning

Departure 29/10/2021 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.

ATHENS

Arrival 30/10/2021 early morning

Disembarkation 30/10/2021 at 6:00 am

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.