

Ancient Splendours of Greece & Egypt

From **13/4/2022**
to **23/4/2022**

Ship: **LE JACQUES CARTIER**

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



This **11-day itinerary** combining history and archaeology will take you from **Jordan** to **Greece**. During your cruise, *Le Jacques-Cartier* will visit several unmissable sites between the **Red Sea** and the **Mediterranean Sea**.

After your embarkation in **Aqaba**, Jordan's only port, you will reach **Ain Soukhna**, the gateway to the **Great Pyramids of Egypt**.

You will cross the world-famous **Suez Canal**, built by Ferdinand de Lesseps and widened recently to facilitate trade. You will then join **Rhodes**, whose old medieval town, built by the Knights of St John, is surrounded by ramparts. It is the largest of the Dodecanese islands and was once home to one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World: its famous Colossus.

Le Jacques-Cartier will then take you to **Patmos**, also known as the 'Jerusalem of the Aegean Sea', this divine island where Saint John is said to have received his visions features unique landscapes that blend long white beaches with rocky coves.

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 Jacques-Cartier 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.

Le Jacques-Cartier will finally set sail to the charming town of **Nafplion**, the departure point for visiting the famous Epidaurus Theatre and the Mycenae site, listed as World Heritage Sites 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 4/12/2021

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

AQABA

Embarkation 13/4/2022 from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Departure 13/4/2022 at 6:00 pm

Located in the Red Sea within the eponymous gulf, **Aqaba** offers Jordan its only access to the sea. At the crossroads of the land and sea routes that linked Asia, Africa and Europe, the town is rich with more than 5,000 years of history. The warm waters of the Red Sea attract holidaymakers and divers to this seaside destination; the underwater sites home to coral and fishes are some of the most beautiful in the world. Aqaba is also the gateway to the magnificent **desert of Wadi Rum** and the marvellous site of **Petra**.

AT SEA

Arrival 14/4/2022

Departure 14/4/2022

During your day at sea, make the most of the many services and activities on board. Treat yourself to a moment of relaxation in the spa or stay in shape in the fitness centre. Depending on the season, let yourself be tempted by the swimming pool or a spot of sunbathing. This day without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, to do some shopping in the boutique or to meet the PONANT photographers in their dedicated space. As for lovers of the open sea, they will be able to visit the ship's upper deck to admire the spectacle of the waves and perhaps be lucky enough to observe marine species. A truly enchanted interlude, combining comfort, rest and entertainment.

AIN SUKHNA

Arrival 15/4/2022 early morning

Departure 15/4/2022 early evening

Ain Sukhna, which means "hot spring," is located in the Gulf of Suez, facing the Red Sea. Around fifty kilometres from the entrance to the Suez Canal, and less than two hours from the Egyptian capital, it is an elegant seaside town that is popular with wealthy families from Cairo. Ain Soukhna is an ideal base for discovering the marvels of Ancient Egypt.

CROSSING THE SUEZ CANAL

Arrival 16/4/2022

Departure 16/4/2022

Without the waterway linking the Red Sea to the Mediterranean this part of the world would be an arid sandy desert inhabited by a few nomads. **The Suez Canal** slices through 162 km of desert and was inaugurated in 1869 in the

presence of Empress Eugenie, then nationalised by Nasser in 1956.

AT SEA

Arrival 17/4/2022

Departure 17/4/2022

During your day at sea, make the most of the many services and activities on board. Treat yourself to a moment of relaxation in the spa or stay in shape in the fitness centre. Depending on the season, let yourself be tempted by the swimming pool or a spot of sunbathing. This day without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, to do some shopping in the boutique or to meet the PONANT photographers in their dedicated space. As for lovers of the open sea, they will be able to visit the ship's upper deck to admire the spectacle of the waves and perhaps be lucky enough to observe marine species. A truly enchanted interlude, combining comfort, rest and entertainment.

RHODES

Arrival 18/4/2022 early morning

Departure 18/4/2022 late afternoon

With its particularly agreeable climate, the island of **Rhodes** invites you to walk its pathways and discover its immaculate villages and sumptuous medieval city, a UNESCO World Heritage site. At the centre of the island the mountains are covered in forest and on the western slopes we find vineyards and crops. Rhodes also owes much of its charm and its character to the **Knights of St John** who reigned over the island from 1310 to 1522 and built impressive defensive walls punctuated with majestic gateways. Do not miss this delightful island with its peaceful beaches and its large walkways, perpetuating the myth of the famous Colossus, the legendary statue that is one of the Seven Wonders of the World.

PATMOS

Arrival 19/4/2022 early morning

Departure 19/4/2022 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 20/4/2022 early morning

Departure 20/4/2022 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 20/4/2022 early afternoon

Departure 20/4/2022 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 21/4/2022 early morning

Departure 21/4/2022 late afternoon

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.

NAFPLION

Arrival 22/4/2022 early morning

Departure 22/4/2022 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 23/4/2022 early morning

Disembarkation 23/4/2022 at 7:00 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.