

Cruising the Dalmatian Coast and the Ionian Sea: Venice to Athens – with Smithsonian Journeys

From **28/6/2022**
to **5/7/2022**

Ship: **LE JACQUES CARTIER**

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



Shore excursion or activity in each port of call + transfers included

In alliance with Smithsonian Journeys.

This cruise is part of a collection of PONANT voyages that are specially-tailored for English-speaking travelers who want to engage with the world. In addition to the usual elements of the PONANT experience, the listed price for these voyages includes transfers to and from the ship, talks and discussions aboard ship by world class experts, and a shore excursion or activity in each port of call that encourages guests to embrace the sights, sounds, tastes, and smells of the local environment and culture.

Set sail to discover the cultural and artistic jewels of the **Ionian, Adriatic** and the **Aegean Seas** with **PONANT**. During this **8-day cruise**, *Le Jacques-Cartier* will take you to Italy, Croatia, Montenegro and Greece.

Your voyage will begin in Italy with an embarkation in **Venice**. An opportunity to discover or rediscover the sublime city of the Doges, with its many canals, its vaporetti and its mythical gondolas before heading to Croatia and the city of **Rovinj**.

Following a port of call in the picturesque port of **Hvar**, you will continue to sail along the Dalmatian coastlines to **Dubrovnik**. Sitting high on a rocky outcrop, its old town, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, watches the world go by.

Le Jacques-Cartier will reach Montenegro after sailing in the **Bay of Kotor**, which is strangely reminiscent of Norwegian fjords. The city of Kotor nestles in a bay surrounded by wooded mountains. Its old town is listed as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** due to its medieval architecture.

Next **Corfu**, the most famous **Ionian island**, will reveal the hidden treasures of its Greco-Byzantine and Venetian architectural heritage. Do not miss the chance to visit the **Achilleion**, the luxurious neoclassical palace built for the **Empress Sissi**.

You will make a call at **Itea**, not far from the marvellous **Delphi**

archaeological site, on the slopes of Mount Parnassus before a memorable crossing of the **Corinth Canal**.

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 :

VENICE

Embarkation 28/6/2022 from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Departure 28/6/2022 at 6:00 pm

Proud and eternal, Venice has reigned on its lagoon ever since the 6th century. You may think you know this city before even setting foot here. You will inevitably fall in love with the charm of the innumerable treasures of the Serenissima: **Saint Mark's square**, the **basilica**, **Doges palace**, the **Grand Canal** and the **gondolas**. Yet, secret Venice is also waiting for you to explore its little interlacing streets and canals, to ramble through its squares and to push open the doors of its churches. The city's extraordinary heritage shouldn't stop you from enjoying a glass of Spritz and a few tramezzini.

ROVINJ

Arrival 29/6/2022 early morning

Departure 29/6/2022 early afternoon

Rovinj is located in Istria, a region bordering Slovenia. This becomes apparent as you walk through its old cobblestoned town. There are many **monuments of Venetian influence** here. If you study the Balbi arch, you will see the winged lion, symbol of Venice. The bell-tower erected beside **Saint Euphemia Cathedral** was designed like the bell of Saint Mark in Venice. From the top of the tower, you can scan the entire historical district. To absorb its quaint atmosphere, take a walk in the ochre and sepia-coloured streets leading to bustling squares and terraces shaded by canvas awnings.

HVAR

Arrival 30/6/2022 early morning

Departure 30/6/2022 late afternoon

Off the coast of Split, Hvar will surprise you by its traditions that have not changed since Antiquity. The country's oldest town, **Stari Grad**, is here on this Dalmatian Island. The town nestles by a cove on the north-west coast, surrounded by dry stone wall structures on the Stari Grad plains. These have been designated a UNESCO World Heritage site because they were built in the time of the Ancient Greeks. From these parcels of land come wines and olive oil manufactured manually. In the upper part of town, it is possible to discover hams and cheeses made by local producers.

DUBROVNIK

Arrival 1/7/2022 early morning

Departure 1/7/2022 late evening

Emblem of the Dalmatian coast, Dubrovnik is magnificently positioned on a rocky spur. History is sovereign here, in this ancient city, now a **listed UNESCO World Heritage site**. You will perhaps be surprised by the proportions of La Placa, the central drag through the city. The sheer width of it can be explained by the fact that it straddles a former lagoon. The elegant houses along La Placa are built in the legendary travertine stone. At Pile gate, you will be greeted by the statue of the patron saint of Dubrovnik, and you can admire the coastline as you **walk along the ramparts**. But what's inside **Fort Saint John**, adjoining the outer walls? A maritime museum and an aquarium featuring rare fish from the Adriatic.

KOTOR

Arrival 2/7/2022 early morning

Departure 2/7/2022 midday

Situated in one of Montenegro's most beautiful bays, **the medieval city** of Kotor is a small town full of charm, truly imbued with the traditions and stories of another time. Built between the 12th and 14th centuries, this village, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, has preserved many historical monuments from this epoch. During your stop, be sure to admire the impressive castle that dominates the town, and let yourself fall under the charm of its maze of small streets and intimate squares on which folk festivals featuring magnificent colourful costumes are often organised.

CORFU

Arrival 3/7/2022 early morning

Departure 3/7/2022 early afternoon

Named after the island, Corfu is the most famous city in the Ionian islands. Protected by citadel fortifications, its old city, designated UNESCO World Heritage, displays unusual **Greco-Byzantine and Venetian architecture**. Above the water stands Saint George's church, looking uncannily like a classical temple. The picturesque **Pontikonisi**, a stone's throw from the southern point of the town, is the legendary island where Odysseus landed.

ITEA

Arrival 4/7/2022 early morning

Departure 4/7/2022 midday

Tucked away in the Gulf of Corinth, this **little port** is situated in continental Greece, north-west of Athens. Take an easy stroll along the old cobblestone quays, while gazing at the summits encircling the **Bay of Itea**. We wouldn't be surprised if you are tempted by a visit to the **Delphi Sanctuary**. The sanctuary is located on a plateau on the slope of Mount Parnassus, just ten kilometres from Itea. A listed UNESCO World Heritage site, this is a once-in-a-lifetime experience whose ancient ruins are surrounded by steep mountains.

CROSSING THE CORINTH CANAL

Arrival 4/7/2022

Departure 4/7/2022

The Corinth Canal cuts through the Isthmus of Corinth, turning the Peloponnese into an island as it separates the region from the Greek mainland. Inaugurated in 1893, the canal is a little over six kilometres long and enables merchant vessels and passenger to avoid a long 400-km detour around the peninsula. The two sides of the canal reach a height of approximately fifty metres. From the exterior decks, don't miss this unique opportunity to watch the ship as it navigates along the narrow strip of water encased between tall, ochre cliffs. What an experience!

ATHENS

Arrival 5/7/2022 early morning

Disembarkation 5/7/2022 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.