

Landscapes and heritage of Ancient Greece

From **26/4/2023**
to **5/5/2023**

Ship: **LE JACQUES-CARTIER**

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



Starting in **Athens**, step aboard **Le Jacques-Cartier** for an **10-day cruise** between Greece and the majestic Sicilian and Maltese coasts.

Your ship will 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**, with its beaches and windmills, and **Alefkandra**, a district that is typical of the island, with houses built right on the water's edge. **Santorini**, one of the pearls of the **Cyclades** awaits you, unfurling the grandiose circle of its caldera.

After calling at **Nafplion** and **Hydra**, you will set sail for the Greek island of **Itea**, not far from the wonderful archaeological site of **Delphi**.

Then, you will make your way to **Katakolon**. On the slopes of Mt Cronion, you can enjoy the unique experience of visiting the UNESCO World Heritage listed **Olympus archaeological site**.

Your exploration of the Mediterranean islands will continue as you discover magnificent **Sicily** and **Syracuse**, one of the most prestigious Sicilian cities, whose monuments are listed as **UNESCO World Heritage**.

Your cruise will come to an end in **Valletta**, capital of the island of Malta and former stronghold of the Knights of the Order of Malta.



The information in this document is valid as of 20/5/2022

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

ATHENS

Embarkation 26/4/2023 from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Departure 26/4/2023 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.

PATMOS

Arrival 27/4/2023 midday

Departure 27/4/2023 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 28/4/2023 early morning

Departure 28/4/2023 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 28/4/2023 midday

Departure 28/4/2023 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.

SANTORINI

Arrival 29/4/2023 early morning

Departure 29/4/2023 late afternoon

The spectacular volcanic island of Santorini stands out proud in the Cyclades. Its basalt cliffs offer particularly expansive views of the Aegean. To enjoy these views, you can head for the capital, **Fira**. Its floral belvederes of bougainvillea provide a bird's-eye view of several thousand metres of coastline. Further away, the gorgeous village of **Oia** looks like a stairway of blue and white houses on the slopes of the volcano. In the south of the island, you will be able to visit the stunning ruins of **Akrotiri**, an ancient city destroyed by an eruption and covered with a thick layer of lava stone.

NAFLION

Arrival 30/4/2023 early morning

Departure 30/4/2023 evening

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.

HYDRA

Arrival 1/5/2023 early morning

Departure 1/5/2023 early 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 *caiques* 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**.

ITEA

Arrival 2/5/2023 early morning

Departure 2/5/2023 early afternoon

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.

KATAKOLON

Arrival 3/5/2023 early morning

Departure 3/5/2023 midday

This picturesque village stretches along the Ionian sea in the west of the Peloponnese. Its main harbour offers a vast panorama of the coastline's wooded hillsides. Dazzling white, the **church of Saint-Nicolas** houses a selection of sumptuous icons. You can also pay a visit the **archaeological site of Olympus** on the slopes of Mount Kronos.

SYRACUSE, SICILY

Arrival 4/5/2023 midday

Departure 4/5/2023 evening

Its undulating rocky coastline, the endless sandy beaches, the menacing form of **Mount Etna** which surveys its island like a patriarch, the flowery gardens on the hillside... **Sicily** lays out its varied landscapes like a shopkeeper displays his wares. Described by Cicero as "the most beautiful city in the world", **Syracuse** was one of the most prestigious cities in Sicily and at her height was even a rival for Athens. **A central city of Ancient Greece**, it was home to a succession of civilisations, each of which has left their mark. The blend of Arabic, Roman, Norman, Byzantine and Spanish cultures makes Syracuse a town that is extraordinarily rich in fragrances, colours and flavours.

VALLETTA

Arrival 5/5/2023 early morning

Disembarkation 5/5/2023 at 8:00 am

The whole of the Maltese capital Valletta is **UNESCO World Heritage** listed and occupies a peninsula in the north-east of the island. From the fountain of Tritons to Saint-Elme fort, there are as many majestic streets as there are narrow staircase vennels to explore. The painted loggia and carved corbels on the tall houses will accompany you in your explorations, and you'll rarely be bothered by traffic. You can visit the Grandmasters palace decorated with coats of arms and frescoes. **Saint-John's cathedral** and the ramparts which have guarded the city since the 16th century are also among the most emblematic sites of the city. Arranged in terraces, the **Barrakka Gardens** will punctuate your promenade with a green and floral experience.