

The most beautiful Greek islands

From **2/7/2021**
to **13/7/2021**

Ship: **LE BOUGAINVILLE**

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



Sail the Aegean Sea with **PONANT** and set off to discover **Greece** and its famous islands aboard *Le Bougainville* for a **12-day brand-new Mediterranean cruise**.

From **Athens**, you will set sail to the island of **Hydra**, famous for its incomparable light, before calling at the charming town of **Nafplio**, the departure point for visiting the famous **Epidauros Theatre** and the **Mycenae site**, listed as a **World Heritage Site by UNESCO**.

After a stop on the picturesque island of **Folegandros**, *Le Bougainville* will then approach the **Santorini archipelago** in an incredible cruise along the foot of its caldera formed during an eruption in around 1600 BC.

You'll visit **Amorgos**, in the **Cyclades Islands**, a mountainous island where some scenes of the film "*The Big Blue*" were filmed then the island of **Symi**, covered with vines, olive trees and cypress trees.

You'll then head for **Patmos**, known as the "*Jerusalem of the Aegean Sea*", this island, where Saint John is said to have written the *Apocalypse*. Then you will discover **Delos**, a minuscule island in the Cyclades archipelago and an open-air museum.

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 and the island of **Paros**, reputed for its sublime white marble.

Le Bougainville will finally stop in **Syros**, an authentic island with neo-classical architecture before sailing to **Sifnos**, exploited since Antiquity for its gold and silver mines, today offering gentle landscapes, mountains paths and a rich endemic flora.

Your journey around the Mediterranean will draw to a close in **Athens**.



The information in this document is valid as of 10/2/2021

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

ATHENS

Embarkation 2/7/2021 from 18h00 to 19h00

Departure 2/7/2021 at 20h00

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.

HYDRA

Arrival 3/7/2021 late morning

Departure 3/7/2021 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**.

NAFPLION

Arrival 4/7/2021 early morning

Departure 4/7/2021 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.

FOLEGANDROS

Arrival 5/7/2021 early morning

Departure 5/7/2021 early afternoon

Folegandros is a treasure concealed in the Cyclades archipelago. You approach this mountainous island from the

south-east side of continental Greece. The blue and white houses built on a steep plateau in its main town, **Chora**, is a feast for the eyes. Why not climb up to the belvederes and admire the view of the Aegean and the port of **Karavostasi**. The jetty in Karavostasi port leads to a lovely beach where you can have fun in the turquoise water. Higher up, **Ano Meria**, a village surrounded by terrace farms, offers a magnificent panorama over the sea.

SAILING IN THE SANTORINI CALDERA

Arrival 5/7/2021

Departure 5/7/2021

Sailing in the waters of **Santorini caldera** is breathtaking. The gigantic scale of the unique setting, the majesty of the high cliffs surrounds this **ancient crater** that was flooded in 2000 years before Christ, is one of the highlights of the cruise. The colourful whites, greys, reds of the volcanic rocks, the blue of the Aegean Sea and the immaculate perched villages form a unique and marvellous spectacle.

AMORGOS

Arrival 6/7/2021 early morning

Departure 6/7/2021 evening

It's no accident that the island of Amorgos was chosen as a shooting location for Luc Besson's film, The Big Blue. You too will fall under the charm of this island as your ship edges closer. Amorgos is the most easterly island in the **Cyclades** and stands out for its **rocky inlets** with crystal-clear water and its small, **picturesque villages**. This port of call will be your chance to visit one of the prettiest villages in the Cyclades, Chora, and discover its cobbled streets and whitewashed houses overlooked by a castle. **Byzantine churches**, windmills and courtyards brimming with flowers complete this typical tableau of timeless Greece.

SYMI

Arrival 7/7/2021 midday

Departure 7/7/2021 evening

A simply ravishing gem in the Dodecanese, Symi is located north-west of Rhodes. This island of cypress forests, vineyards and olive orchards, possesses a capital city of the same name that is as colourful as the surrounding countryside. The charm of the port district of **Gialos** is not to be missed: its quaysides are lined with picturesque houses with multi-coloured facades. You can get to the upper town by car or climb the 500 steps up the **Kali Strata** ramp. The second option offers superb viewing points of the coast and gorgeous turquoise waters.

PATMOS

Arrival 8/7/2021 early morning

Departure 8/7/2021 late evening

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 9/7/2021 early morning

Departure 9/7/2021 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 9/7/2021 early afternoon

Departure 9/7/2021 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 10/7/2021 early morning

Departure 10/7/2021 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.

SYROS

Arrival 11/7/2021 early morning

Departure 11/7/2021 early 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.

KAMARES, SIFNOS

Arrival 12/7/2021 early morning

Departure 12/7/2021 late afternoon

Nestling in the Cyclades, the harmonious and much less crowded **island of Sifnos** is home to many treasures. Exploited since antiquity for its gold and silver mines, this little-known pearl boasts gentle landscapes and is a botanical paradise. The rich endemic flora can be admired along the island's mountain paths that have been trodden for thousands of years. From the main port of Kamares, set off to discover the nearby sandy beach which runs along a lagoon and whose dunes are covered in sea daffodils. The picturesque **fortified village of Kastro** is another of the island's wonders. Sitting atop a hill overlooking the Aegean Sea, this spot, where people have lived since prehistoric times, is very much an open-air museum.

ATHENS

Arrival 13/7/2021 early morning

Disembarkation 13/7/2021 at 06h00

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.