

The Cyclades and Ancient Treasures

From **13/7/2021**
to **20/7/2021**

Ship: **LE BOUGAINVILLE**

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



In partnership with the Louvre.

Fall under the spell of the **Mediterranean's key sites** during an **8-day** cruise offered by **PONANT**. With Athens as the departure point, board *Le Bougainville* for an unforgettable sailing experience discovering exceptional islands and cities.

Your cruise will begin with the exploration of two of Greece's major sites, from Nafplion: the **Mycenae ruins** and the **Epidaurus theatre**, both UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Le Bougainville 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.

A little further north, you will arrive on **Mykonos**, with its iconic windmills, beaches, countless churches and whitewashed houses.

Following a stop on the island of **Patmos**, *Le Bougainville* will leave Greece to reach **Kusadasi**, in Turkey. An old fishing village with history going back 5,000 years, not far from the Ephesus site, the town is now one of the country's most famous seaside resorts.

Your trip continues with a stop on the volcanic island of **Limnos**, near the Dardanelles Strait. Protected during Antiquity by Hephaestus, the god of fire, this green and lush island has now become one of Greece's major seaside resorts.

Lastly, you will reach **Istanbul**, where your cruise to the Eastern Mediterranean will draw to an end.



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

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

ATHENS

Embarkation 13/7/2021 from 16h00 to 17h00

Departure 13/7/2021 at 18h00

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.

NAFPLION

Arrival 14/7/2021 late morning

Departure 14/7/2021 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.

PAROS

Arrival 15/7/2021 midday

Departure 15/7/2021 early 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.

DELOS

Arrival 16/7/2021 early morning

Departure 16/7/2021 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 16/7/2021 early afternoon

Departure 16/7/2021 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.

PATMOS

Arrival 17/7/2021 early morning

Departure 17/7/2021 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.

KUSADASI

Arrival 18/7/2021 early morning

Departure 18/7/2021 midday

The attractive **seaside resort of Kusadasi** is located in a gulf on the western coast of Turkey. You can bathe there in clear waters or stroll along the coastal walk, in the shade of palms. In the historical district, you can take a mosey down the narrow streets and explore the colourful shops in the bazaar. Close by, the **Ephesus archaeological site** in the hillsides provides an opportunity to discover the ruins of one of the most famous cities of Antiquity.

LIMNOS ISLAND

Arrival 19/7/2021 early morning

Departure 19/7/2021 midday

A volcanic island located near the Dardanelles Strait, Limnos was venerated during Antiquity. Legend has it that Hephaestus, the god of fire, had his forge here. Now one of Greece's major seaside resorts, Lemnos offers its visitors many superb sandy beaches. It is also home to several archaeological sites, such as the towers of Kastro, an ancient acropolis fortified by the Venetians, or the neolithic site of Poliochni and the city of Hephaestia. Renowned for its olives, fruits, wheat and honey, and for the authenticity of its inhabitants, Lemnos is also known for the quality of its

restaurants, ideal for tasting typical Greek dishes.

SAILING IN THE DARDANELLES

Arrival 19/7/2021

Departure 19/7/2021

The **Dardanelles Strait** is an emblematic, 61 km-long waterway connecting the **Aegean Sea** with the **Sea of Marmara**. It is strategic for controlling passage between the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea. Like the Bosphorus, or Strait of Istanbul, it separates Europe from Asia. A surface current flows along it, while a more saline undercurrent flows in the opposite direction. Along the strait, you will be able to admire **hilly landscapes** and arid lowlands brightened by **fields and groves of olive trees**.

ISTANBUL

Arrival 20/7/2021 early morning

Disembarkation 20/7/2021 at 07h00

Located on the Bosphorus, Istanbul is one of the most beautiful of all Turkish cities. Named Byzantium when founded by the Greeks, and then Constantinople under the Roman Empire, this city is steeped in history and, for this reason, is a listed UNESCO World Heritage site. Located on Sultanahmet hill, the great **Blue Mosque**, the mysterious **Hagia Sophia** and the vast **Topkapi palace** and its countless mosaics, dominate the Marmara Sea. In the Beyazit district, the **Grand Bazaar** allows to discover elegant covered passages. A little further away, delicate aroma of **loukoum** and spices will draw the visitors' attention at the Egyptian Bazaar.