

Escapade around the Peloponnese

From **14/6/2021**
to **18/6/2021**

Ship: **LE BOUGAINVILLE**

From **Palermo, Sicily**
to **Athens**



For the very first time, PONANT is offering a short **new 5-day cruise** in the Mediterranean. Perfect for a short break that is rich in discoveries. From **Sicily** to the **Greek coast**, experience exceptional moments discovering fascinating sites.

Le Bougainville will leave **Palermo**, capital of Sicily. Its magnificent cathedral, churches and palaces, representative of Arab-Norman influences, are listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Your ship will then cross the Ionian Sea towards the **Delphi sanctuary** of Greek gods which you will reach via **Itea**. **Delphi** is located on a grandiose site that is one of **Greece's** most beautiful natural landscapes. You will walk in the footsteps of the pilgrims of old, who came here to consult the famous oracle.

You will sail along the astonishing **Corinth Canal**, a famous sea channel dug out by men in the 19th century and arrive in **Nafplion**, the departure point for visiting the famous **Epidauros** 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 10/2/2021

Escapade around the Peloponnese

YOUR STOPOVERS :

PALERMO, SICILY

Embarkation 14/6/2021 from 16h00 to 17h00

Departure 14/6/2021 at 18h00

Palermo is the guardian of the Sicilian soul. Many have been attracted to this city, the largest capital of the Italian islands. Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Normans... Palermo is a rich culmination of so many cultural influences as seen in the Moorish designs on the **cathedral**, and the Byzantine mosaics of the **Palatine chapel**, which is itself housed within the precincts of the **Norman palace**. You will fall under the spell of the palaces, **baroque splendours** that grace the town with their obsolete beauty. It is thrilling to stumble upon one of those fabulous markets, high in colour, and headily picturesque.

AT SEA

Arrival 15/6/2021

Departure 15/6/2021

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.

ITEA

Arrival 16/6/2021 early morning

Departure 16/6/2021 mid 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.

CROSSING THE CORINTH CANAL

Arrival 16/6/2021

Departure 16/6/2021

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!

NAFPLION

Arrival 17/6/2021 early morning

Departure 17/6/2021 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.

ATHENS

Arrival 18/6/2021 early morning

Disembarkation 18/6/2021 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.