

Sweet Mediterranean Escape

From **17/8/2021**
to **24/8/2021**

Ship: **LE BOUGAINVILLE**

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



Discover a **PONANT** itinerary in the heart of the Mediterranean: join us aboard *Le Bougainville* for an unforgettable **8-day cruise** from the **Aegean Sea** to the **French Riviera**, between **Athens** and **Nice**. Succumb to the charms of the Mediterranean and its breathtaking scenery.

Departing from **Athens**, your ship will set a course for the astonishing **Corinth Canal**. Sailing along this famous sea channel dug out by men in the 19th century will be an unforgettable experience.

Le Bougainville will join 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.

After calling at **Katakolon**, you will leave Greece for Italy. You will visit **Amalfi** and its coast, which are magnificent **UNESCO World Heritage Sites**. Perched between sky and sea, Amalfi presents amazing landscapes.

Le Bougainville will then sail to the island of **Ponza**. On this volcanic isle where Circe was born, like Ulysses you will be captivated by its wild contours, its hidden swimming spots and its small, adorable fishing port.

Bonifacio, a gem in the far south of the **Isle of Beauty**, will be the final port of call on your voyage. Veritable fortress sculpted by the wind and the spray, the "sentinel city" will reveal its historical centre and its long cobbled streets.

Your cruise will end in **Nice**, a mythical city on the French Riviera whose age-old culture and natural wonders have inspired artists and travellers since time immemorial.



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

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

ATHENS

Embarkation 17/8/2021 from 16h00 to 17h00

Departure 17/8/2021 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.

CROSSING THE CORINTH CANAL

Arrival 17/8/2021 at night

Departure 17/8/2021 early morning

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!

ITEA

Arrival 18/8/2021 midday

Departure 18/8/2021 late 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 19/8/2021 early morning

Departure 19/8/2021 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.

AT SEA

Arrival 20/8/2021

Departure 20/8/2021

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.

AMALFI

Arrival 21/8/2021 early morning

Departure 21/8/2021 evening

The little town of Campania gives its name to the region containing the magnificent, UNESCO World Heritage listed, **Amalfi coast**. And for good reason. Located at the foot of Mount Cerreto, against a rock face of a gorge that opens onto the sea, Amalfi's absolutely splendid natural scenery alone is enough to feast your eyes on before making for the medieval streets to explore some of its history. The mix of cultural influences from the Mediterranean Rim is omnipresent here.

PONZA

Arrival 22/8/2021 early morning

Departure 22/8/2021 midday

Off the coast of Naples, the **island of Ponza** has always lived outside of time... Also known as the island of Circe, where the famous magician who captivated Ulysses was born, this magnificent rock, the result of a volcanic eruption, rises from the Tyrrhenian Sea. Faced with the wild beauty of this site, you will understand why Ulysses was in no hurry to head off for Ithaca. Its rugged coastline of rocks and white or blue-grey cliffs, sculpted by the wind and the waves, is full of sea caves that the Romans used to use for bathing. **The village of Ponza** also offers a pretty sight, with its colourful cubic houses forming a semi-circle around the tiny port.

BONIFACIO, CORSICA

Arrival 23/8/2021 early morning

Departure 23/8/2021 early afternoon

The spectacular town of **Bonifacio** located on the very tip of southern Corsica, clings to a narrow promontory of white rock overhanging the turquoise waters of the Mediterranean. You can admire its limestone cliffs hewn out by the wind, before setting off on a cultural tour of its cultural treasures. From the little paved streets in the ancient **Haute Ville**, to the promenade on the open-air medieval **chemin de ronde**, this stunning town will take you on a journey back

in time. Frequented or secluded, there are numerous beaches to choose from, all in keeping with the high standards of the “Île de Beauté”.

NICE

Arrival 24/8/2021 early morning

Disembarkation 24/8/2021 at 08h00

Capital of the Cote d’Azur, Nice is surrounded by an amphitheatre of hills and mountains that protects it from the wind. You will probably want to explore the Promenade des Anglais, where you can sit on one of the famous blue chairs laid out opposite the baie des Anges. The Château hill is also a very pleasant place to walk. This is the entrance to the **old city**, with its bustling markets and regional products along the main street, the Cours Saleya.