

# Autumn Escape in the Aegean Sea

From **30/10/2021**  
to **6/11/2021**

Ship: **LE BOUGAINVILLE**

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



Sail the Aegean Sea with **PONANT** and set off to discover **Greece and its famous islands**: the Cyclades and the Dodecanese Islands.

From **Athens**, *Le Bougainville* will take you to exceptional sites during a **8-day Mediterranean cruise**.

You will first 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.

Then, 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.

You will make a port of call in **Mykonos**. This is the 'Queen of the Cyclades', an island of white windmills, sinuous lanes and whitewashed buildings, with a small port where fishing boats and dinghies lazily bob at the foot of the terraces. Mykonos cannot fail to charm you.

You will discover **Patmos**, known as the "Jerusalem of the Aegean Sea". This island, where Saint John is said to have written the Apocalypse, offers unique landscapes combining white sandy beaches and rocky coves.

In **Rhodes**, you will fall under the charm of the Gothic architecture in the medieval city, listed as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.

The unique Santorini, one of the pearls of the **Cyclades** awaits you, unfurling the grandiose circle of its caldera. *Afterwards, you will set sail to Nafplio*, the departure point for visiting the famous Epidaurus Theatre and the Mycenae site, listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO before calling at **the island of Hydra**, famous for its incomparable light before calling at the last step of your cruise: 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 17/2/2021

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## YOUR STOPOVERS :

### ATHENS

Embarkation 30/10/2021 from 16h00 to 17h00

Departure 30/10/2021 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.

### KUSADASI

Arrival 31/10/2021 midday

Departure 31/10/2021 early evening

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.

### DELOS

Arrival 1/11/2021 early morning

Departure 1/11/2021 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 1/11/2021 early afternoon

Departure 1/11/2021 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 2/11/2021 early morning

Departure 2/11/2021 early 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.

## RHODES

Arrival 3/11/2021 early morning

Departure 3/11/2021 late afternoon

With its particularly agreeable climate, the island of **Rhodes** invites you to walk its pathways and discover its immaculate villages and sumptuous medieval city, a UNESCO World Heritage site. At the centre of the island the mountains are covered in forest and on the western slopes we find vineyards and crops. Rhodes also owes much of its charm and its character to the **Knights of St John** who reigned over the island from 1310 to 1522 and built impressive defensive walls punctuated with majestic gateways. Do not miss this delightful island with its peaceful beaches and its large walkways, perpetuating the myth of the famous Colossus, the legendary statue that is one of the Seven Wonders of the World.

## SANTORINI

Arrival 4/11/2021 early morning

Departure 4/11/2021 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.

## NAFPLION

Arrival 5/11/2021 early morning

Departure 5/11/2021 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 6/11/2021 early morning

Disembarkation 6/11/2021 at 06h00

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