

Treasures of the Aegean Sea

From **15/07/2022**
to **22/07/2022**

Ship: **LE LYRIAL**

From **Istanbul**
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 Istanbul, *Le Lyrial* will take you to exceptional sites during an **8-day Mediterranean cruise**.

You will discover 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.

You will set sail for the island of **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.

The next stop will be at **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 also discover **Mykonos**, 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.

Le Lyrial will then make a detour via the **island of Hydra**, famous for its incomparable light and the calm of its small streets on which all motorised traffic is banned.

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 28/11/2021

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

ISTANBUL

Embarkation 15/07/2022 from 15:30 to 16:30

Departure 15/07/2022 at 17:30

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.

LIMNOS ISLAND

Arrival 16/07/2022 early afternoon

Departure 16/07/2022 late afternoon

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.

SYROS

Arrival 17/07/2022 early afternoon

Departure 17/07/2022 evening

Located to the west of Mykonos, Syros is an attractive **island in the Cyclades**. The island has been inhabited since ancient times and Ermoupolis, its capital, built in an amphitheatre, is spread over two hills. You may wish to visit its **archaeological museum** and 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.

PATMOS

Arrival 18/07/2022 early morning

Departure 18/07/2022 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 19/07/2022 early morning

Departure 19/07/2022 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 19/07/2022 early afternoon

Departure 19/07/2022 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 20/07/2022 early morning

Departure 20/07/2022 late 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.

HYDRA

Arrival 21/07/2022 mid morning

Departure 21/07/2022 evening

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**.

ATHENS

Arrival 22/07/2022 early morning

Disembarkation 22/07/2022 at 06:00

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.