

Ancient treasures of the Mediterranean

From **19/04/2022**
to **01/05/2022**

Ship: **LE BELLOT**

From **Valletta**
to **Valletta**



Embark with **PONANT** and visit major ancient sites of **Greece, Italy, Malta** and of **Turkey**, aboard *Le Bellot* for a brand-new **13-day Mediterranean cruise**.

From **La Valette**, you will set sail to **Itea**, not far from the marvellous archaeological site of **Delphi**, before crossing the **Corinth Canal**, a narrow strip of water hewn from the chalky rocks of the Peloponnese.

You will then reach the charming city of **Nafplio**, the departure point for visiting the famous **Epidaurus Theatre** and the **Mycenae site**, listed as a **World Heritage Site by UNESCO**.

Next, you will head for the Cyclades archipelago and discover in **Delos**, an open-air museum as well as the renowned beaches and windmills of **Mykonos**.

Le Bellot will then sail on to the Turkish coast and anchor in **Fethiye**.

From here, you will have the opportunity to discover the Xanthos site, the old sanctuary of Leto, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In **Antalya**, a popular seaside resort on the Turkish Riviera, the history of the city can be discovered by strolling along the narrow-cobbled streets of the old town, **Kaleiçi**, which is entered via Hadrian's Gate, an impressive Greco-Roman archway that stands alongside Ottoman houses.

Your ship will take you to the southern Aegean Sea to discover the capital of Crete, **Heraklion**, built on a hillside overlooking the port and encircled by **formidable Venetian walls**.

Your exploration of the Mediterranean islands will continue as you discover magnificent **Sicily** to discover **Syracuse**, one of the most prestigious Sicilian cities, whose monuments are listed as a **UNESCO World Heritage**.

Your cruise will come to an end in **Valletta**, capital of the island of Malta and former stronghold of the Knights of the Order of Malta.



The information in this document is valid as of 27/01/2022

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

VALLETTA

Embarkation 19/04/2022 from 16:00 to 17:00

Departure 19/04/2022 at 18:00

The whole of the Maltese capital Valletta is **UNESCO World Heritage** listed and occupies a peninsula in the north-east of the island. From the fountain of Tritons to Saint-Elme fort, there are as many majestic streets as there are narrow staircase vennels to explore. The painted loggia and carved corbels on the tall houses will accompany you in your explorations, and you'll rarely be bothered by traffic. You can visit the Grandmasters palace decorated with coats of arms and frescoes. **Saint-John's cathedral** and the ramparts which have guarded the city since the 16th century are also among the most emblematic sites of the city. Arranged in terraces, the **Barrakka Gardens** will punctuate your promenade with a green and floral experience.

AT SEA

Arrival 20/04/2022

Departure 20/04/2022

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 21/04/2022 early morning

Departure 21/04/2022 midday

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 21/04/2022

Departure 21/04/2022

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 22/04/2022 early morning

Departure 22/04/2022 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.

DELOS

Arrival 23/04/2022 early morning

Departure 23/04/2022 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 23/04/2022 early afternoon

Departure 23/04/2022 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.

PATMOS

Arrival 24/04/2022 early morning

Departure 24/04/2022 late afternoon

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.

FETHIYE

Arrival 25/04/2022 early morning

Departure 25/04/2022 early afternoon

In the south-west of Turkey, **Fethiye** is a small seaside paradise nestled along the Turquoise Coast. Its natural harbour is one of the most beautiful in the region, revealing a magnificent bay dotted with adorable small islands, while the hinterland exposes the **Taurus** mountain chain, stretching on to Asia. At the end of the bay, a pleasant atmosphere pervades the narrow streets, small shops and street stalls in the old town. The history of Fethiye can be discovered through the ruins of the ancient city of **Telmessos**, including the ancient amphitheatre and the Lycian tombs sculpted into the cliff face. Among these is the **Tomb of Amyntas**, dating back to the 4th century before the current era. The ruins also make a magnificent scenic lookout offering panoramic views of the bay below. The town is also the gateway to the exceptional **Xanthos-Letoon** site, sanctuary of the goddess Leto, mother of the gods Artemis and Apollo. The vestiges of the three Lycian temples where the gods were worshipped for eight centuries are now a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

ANTALYA

Arrival 26/04/2022 early morning

Departure 26/04/2022 late afternoon

On the Turkish Mediterranean coast, discover the seaside resort of **Antalya**. While the city sports magnificent fine sandy beaches, it is also known for its significant historical heritage. Many vestiges bear witness to the importance of this **former Roman port**, such as Hadrian's Gate, built in the year 130 in honour of the visiting emperor. In the old town, it is possible to admire **magnificent Ottoman houses** with flowery gardens, as well as the **broken minaret**, built on the ruins of a former Byzantine church. The city's surroundings also provide an opportunity to discover major archaeological sites, such as that of the ancient city of **Aspendos**, renowned for its impressive Roman theatre.

RHODES

Arrival 27/04/2022 early morning

Departure 27/04/2022 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.

HERAKLION, CRETE

Arrival 28/04/2022 early morning

Departure 28/04/2022 midday

Heraklion, the capital of **Crete**, is the island's most populous city. The hustle and bustle of this seaport is an integral part of its charm. It is built on a hillside overlooking the port and is encircled by **impressive Venetian walls**. From the top of these, you will be able to enjoy one of the most beautiful views of the city. The old town is teeming with small shops, squares, cafés and vibrant architectural evidence of the city's long history. The **Palace of Knossos** illustrates the wealth and power of its legendary sovereign, King Minos. The **archaeological museum** houses one of the largest collections of Minoan artefacts and is worth a visit.

PYLOS

Arrival 29/04/2022 early morning

Departure 29/04/2022 midday

The picturesque port of Pylos is located in the south west of the Peloponnese. Backed against the lush green hills of Messenia, it looks out onto the **Navarino Bay**. You can admire the gorgeous view as you walk uptown amid pink oleanders that cascade over the jetty. A stone's throw away, the historical centre's winding streets will plunge you into a maze of houses with whitewashed facades and terracotta roof-tiles. On the attractive main beach, you will be able to relax in the shade of the **age-old plane trees** and taste the delicious local biscuits made of sesame and honey.

SYRACUSE, SICILY

Arrival 30/04/2022 midday

Departure 30/04/2022 early evening

Its undulating rocky coastline, the endless sandy beaches, the menacing form of **Mount Etna** which surveys its island like a patriarch, the flowery gardens on the hillside... **Sicily** lays out its varied landscapes like a shopkeeper displays his wares. Described by Cicero as "the most beautiful city in the world", **Syracuse** was one of the most prestigious cities in Sicily and at her height was even a rival for Athens. **A central city of Ancient Greece**, it was home to a succession of civilisations, each of which has left their mark. The blend of Arabic, Roman, Norman, Byzantine and Spanish cultures makes Syracuse a town that is extraordinarily rich in fragrances, colours and flavours.

VALLETTA

Arrival 01/05/2022 early morning

Disembarkation 01/05/2022 at 08:00

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