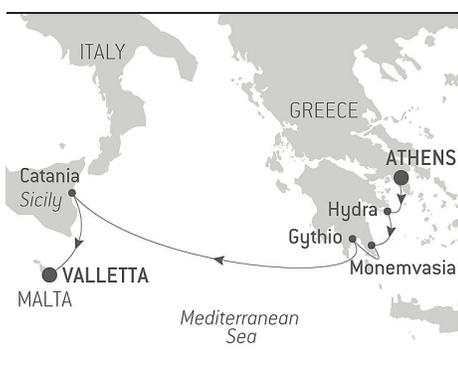


From the shores of Greece to the Maltese coast

From **26/06/2023**
to **02/07/2023**

Ship: **LE BOUGAINVILLE**

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



Discover the **Mediterranean** as you have never seen it before, during a **brand-new 7-day cruise** that will take you from **Athens**, the famous city of the gods, to **Valletta**, the Maltese capital. Aboard *Le Bougainville*, Greece, its mythical Peloponnese region, and Sicily will reveal their most beautiful landscapes to you.

From **Athens**, you will reach the small island of **Hydra**, famous for its incomparable light.

Then, *Le Bougainville* will set a course for the **Peloponnese region**. The fortified peninsula of **Monemvasia** will reveal itself, monumental, like a ship of stone overlooking the azure.

Next comes **Gythio**. To the south of Peloponnese, what was once the main port of ancient Sparta is the gateway to the Byzantine city of **Mystras**, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.

You will leave behind the Greek coast to make your way to Italy and the largest Mediterranean island, **Sicily**. You will stop in **Catania**, dominated by **Mount Etna**, whose eruptions and earthquakes in the late 17th century led to the city's reconstruction in the late Baroque style of the time. Thanks to the high level of architectural and artistic achievement, the city is now **listed with UNESCO**.

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



The information in this document is valid as of 06/07/2022

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

ATHENS

Embarkation 26/06/2023 from 16:00 to 17:00

Departure 26/06/2023 at 20:00

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.

HYDRA

Arrival 27/06/2023 at night

Departure 27/06/2023 late 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**.

MONEMVASIA

Arrival 28/06/2023 early morning

Departure 28/06/2023 late evening

The jewel of the southern Peloponnese, **Monemvasia** is the romantic refuge for Athenians. Given the poetic nickname of the "stone ship", this majestic peninsula is home to an incredible **fortified medieval village**, lying at the foot of its abrupt cliffs, which seems to have been cast by the gods from the **Aegean Sea**. Contemplate the horizon from its ramparts, a veritable walkway defying the azure waters, and stroll through its vaulted narrow streets with their thousand shades of ochre. At the crossroads of western and eastern influences and the maritime routes of the continent, Crete and the Cyclades, Monemvasia has preserved in this magical decor the treasures of Venetian and Byzantine architecture.

GYTHIO

Arrival 29/06/2023 early morning
Departure 29/06/2023 evening

Located in the south of the **Peloponnese**, on the Mani Peninsula, Gytheio was the main port and naval base of ancient Sparta, located around fifty kilometres inland. In Roman times, the port experienced significant expansion thanks to trading in imperial dye; in fact, the region had an abundance of murex, the rock snails from which this dye, loved by the Romans, was extracted. The town is nestled against Mount Koumaros and dominated by a citadel. Take a stroll and fall under the charm of the calm that reigns over the stairways bordered by small neoclassic houses with steps overrun with wild flowers.

AT SEA

Arrival 30/06/2023
Departure 30/06/2023

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.

CATANIA, SICILY

Arrival 01/07/2023 early morning
Departure 01/07/2023 late afternoon

Sicily's second city **Catania** is dominated by the majestic silhouette of **Mount Etna**. Nourishing and devastating at the same time, this giant crowned with smoke rings brought about the destruction of the city at the end of the 17th century. Catania was then rebuilt in the late Baroque style, and the many monuments of this epoch have earned its status as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The baroque churches of the harmonious **Via dei Crociferi** perfectly illustrate the riches of this architectural heritage. During your stop, be sure to visit **Saint Agatha Cathedral** with its apses made of lava stones, and its square decorated with a fountain of the Elephant, the animal which allegedly has the power to calm the fury of Mount Etna ...

VALLETTA

Arrival 02/07/2023 early morning
Disembarkation 02/07/2023 at 08:00

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.