

# From the Aegean to the Red Sea

From **29/10/2023**  
to **08/11/2023**

Ship: **LE CHAMPLAIN**

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



In **Athens**, join us aboard **Le Champlain** for an unforgettable **11-day cruise**. It will be an opportunity to discover major ancient sites from the great civilisations that spread across the **Mediterranean** and contributed to shape our modern world.

After a stop in **Nafplion**, a charming and well-preserved city dominated by an impressive Venitian citadel, **Le Champlain** will take you to **Syros**, a cosmopolitan island with a rich history. The Cyclades capital will surprise you with its authenticity and neo-classical architecture.

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.

The next stop will be **Rhodes**, where you will fall under the charm of the Gothic architecture in the medieval city, listed as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.

You will cross the world-famous **Suez Canal**, built by Ferdinand de Lesseps and widened recently to facilitate trade, before reaching **Safaga** in Egypt, and Aqaba in Jordan, the end of your voyage.



The information in this document is valid as of 10/08/2022

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## YOUR STOPOVERS :

### ATHENS

Embarkation 29/10/2023 from 16:00 to 17:00

Departure 29/10/2023 at 18:00

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.

### NAFPLION

Arrival 30/10/2023 early morning

Departure 30/10/2023 early evening

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.

### SYROS

Arrival 31/10/2023 early morning

Departure 31/10/2023 early 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 01/11/2023 early morning

Departure 01/11/2023 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 02/11/2023 midday

Departure 02/11/2023 midday

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.

## AT SEA

Arrival 03/11/2023

Departure 03/11/2023

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.

## CROSSING THE SUEZ CANAL

Arrival 04/11/2023 late afternoon

Departure 04/11/2023 late afternoon

Without the waterway linking the Red Sea to the Mediterranean this part of the world would be an arid sandy desert inhabited by a few nomads. **The Suez Canal** slices through 162 km of desert and was inaugurated in 1869 in the presence of Empress Eugenie, then nationalised by Nasser in 1956.

## SAFAGA

Arrival 05/11/2023 midday

Departure 06/11/2023 evening

A former fishing and mining village, **Safaga** is now a charming seaside resort with much to offer. Located on the western coast of the Red Sea and preserved from mass tourism, the town will really **plunge you into the heart of authentic Egypt**

and is an ideal departure point for an excursion into the desert in search of the Bedouin. The site is also renowned for the beauty of its **underwater world, perfect for scuba diving** and snorkelling. Above all, though, this stop in Safaga provides the opportunity to discover Luxor, the ancient Egyptian city of Thebes, considered to be one of the world's greatest open-air museums thanks to its **exceptional Pharaonic heritage**.

## AT SEA

Arrival 07/11/2023

Departure 07/11/2023

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.

## AQABA

Arrival 08/11/2023

Disembarkation 08/11/2023 at 07:30

Located in the Red Sea within the eponymous gulf, **Aqaba** offers Jordan its only access to the sea. At the crossroads of the land and sea routes that linked Asia, Africa and Europe, the town is rich with more than 5,000 years of history. The warm waters of the Red Sea attract holidaymakers and divers to this seaside destination; the underwater sites home to coral and fishes are some of the most beautiful in the world. Aqaba is also the gateway to the magnificent **desert of Wadi Rum** and the marvellous site of **Petra**.