

Ancient civilisations, from Italy to Greece

From **16/10/2023**
to **22/10/2023**

Ship: **LE CHAMPLAIN**

From **Civitavecchia (Rome)**
to **Athens**



With the exceptional presence of Christophe Barbier, French journalist and editorialist.

Let this exceptional **7-day cruise** take **you from the Eternal City to the City of the Gods**, between two of the most dazzling ancient Mediterranean civilisations. Aboard *Le Champlain*, you will sail along the Italian shores to Greece and its treasures.

From **Civitavecchia** you will head for **Naples**, one of the oldest cities in the world, where Baroque churches, romantic plazas and ancient palaces meet. The host of monuments and landmarks bear witness to the richness of this city dominated by Mount Vesuvius, which stands over 1,000 metres tall.

Catania is the next port of call on your cruise. Located on the slopes of Mount Etna, the town has been destroyed seven times by the volcano's eruptions! Listed as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, it is a town of incomparable cultural richness.

Le Champlain will then cross the Ionian Sea towards **Katakolon**, its first Greek point of call. From the port, you will head to **Olympia**, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, whose ruins are a testament to its former grandeur. On the following day, from **Itea**, another exceptional site awaits: **Delphi**.

Your ship will then sail along the astonishing **Corinth Canal**, a famous sea channel dug out by men in the 19th century, and arrive in Nafplion. From Nafplion you will be able to visit two ancient jewels: the Epidaurus Theatre and Mycenae, the royal city of House of Atreus.

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 10/08/2022

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

CIVITAVECCHIA (ROME)

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

Departure 16/10/2023 at 18:00

Built on an Etruscan site, between the Tyrrhenian sea and the Monti della Tolfa, Civitavecchia respires the **dolce vita**. This very modern and easy going town combines art and history with panache. You can also visit superb historical sites like **Fort Michelangelo** or the Cathedral of Saint Francis of Assisi. Just 80 kilometres from Rome, the town is a beautiful first step to the Italian capital.

NAPLES

Arrival 17/10/2023 early morning

Departure 17/10/2023 midday

More Italian than Italy itself, **Naples** is the capital of the beautiful region of **Campania**, and is an unusual city to say the least. Its gulf, dominated by Vesuvius, is one of the world's marvels. Built by the Greeks and then occupied by the Romans, the city has retained the memory of antiquity, as **Castell dell'Ovo** illustrates. But Naples has another side to it with its hustle and bustle, narrow streets, clothes hung out to dry at windows, **Caravaggio** paintings on the walls of a church, and incessant rumour in an sleepless city. This is a head-spinning city to visit and savour: don't forget to eat a slice of **pizza Margherita**.

CATANIA, SICILY

Arrival 18/10/2023 early morning

Departure 18/10/2023 midday

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 ...

KATAKOLON

Arrival 19/10/2023 early afternoon

Departure 19/10/2023 early evening

This picturesque village stretches along the Ionian sea in the west of the Peloponnese. Its main harbour offers a vast

panorama of the coastline's wooded hillsides. Dazzling white, the **church of Saint-Nicolas** houses a selection of sumptuous icons. You can also pay a visit the **archaeological site of Olympus** on the slopes of Mount Kronos.

ITEA

Arrival 20/10/2023 early morning

Departure 20/10/2023 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 20/10/2023 late afternoon

Departure 20/10/2023 evening

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 21/10/2023 early morning

Departure 21/10/2023 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 22/10/2023 early morning

Disembarkation 22/10/2023 at 07:00

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.