

8 Days | Heart of the Greek Islands | with PONANT

Athens - Patmos - Symi - Amorgos - Milos - Delos - Paros - Hydra

From **\$8,650** Typically \$9,800 pp twin share



A cruise in the heart of the Aegean Sea, discovering the Greek Islands, featuring emblematic ancient heritage and unique landscapes with a mix of white sandy beaches and rocky bays.

UNESCO World Heritage Sites: the Acropolis in Athens and MORE

Discover the pearls of the Cyclades: Amorgos, the Santorini Caldera, Folegandros, Delos, Paros and their ancient ruins

An exceptional sunset cruise in the Santorini caldera and swimming opportunities from many small coves

Description



The Greek Islands, from the Peloponnese to the Cyclades via the Dodecanese, are enchanting, bewitching and captivating.

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From the sheer coastlines bordered by paradisiacal turquoise waters to the archaeological sites that are as emblematic as they are monumental, let yourself fall under the spell of these jewels of the Aegean Sea. From Athens, set sail aboard your luxurious PONANT Ship for an 8-day cruise in the heart of the most beautiful Greek islands.

In the Dodecanese archipelago, where St. John is said to have written the Apocalypse, the island of Patmos, known as “the Jerusalem of the Aegean Sea”, reveals itself to offer you a moment suspended between unique landscapes of white-sand beaches and rocky bays.

Planted with forests of cypress trees and olive groves, Symi is bewitching. The shimmering colours of its dwellings and surrounding nature make it a real paradise for those seeking tranquillity and serenity.

You will now head towards the most easterly part of the Cyclades. Amorgos, or the island in the Big Blue film, as it is nicknamed, is a rough gem. Fall under the spell of its volcanic and mountainous landscapes diving into the bordering crystal-clear waters and its paved small streets

edged by traditional whitewashed houses.

After an unforgettable cruise in Santorini's captivating caldera, where high cliffs surround the majestic ancient crater engulfed by water in the 2nd millennium BC, you will set sail north west. On Milos, the limestone cliffs and small hidden coves are yours to discover in a soothing atmosphere.

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The birthplace of Artemis and Apollo, Delos is rich in archaeological ruins, UNESCO World Heritage Sites, illustrating its prestigious history. The Terrace of the Lions, the Sanctuary of Zeus and Athena, the Temple of the Athenians... journey back in time almost 2,000 years, between millennia-old heritage and sumptuous panoramas.

Your PONANT Ship will then head towards Paros. Nestling in the heart of the Cyclades archipelago, this island reputed for its sublime white marble offers a real concentration of Greek beauty, from whitewashed houses to olive groves to ancient monuments.

You will now sail towards the east of the Peloponnese, to reach your final port of call. Here, a gem named Hydra reveals its old-world charm in a stunning setting. With its hidden coves and its mountains topped with monasteries, this jewel of the Saronic Islands completely devoid of cars offers a total change of scenery against the spellbinding blue of the Aegean Sea.

Athens, the mythical city dominated by the Acropolis and its monuments, which form the most extraordinary architectural and artistic ensemble bequeathed to the world by Ancient Greece, will mark the end of this exceptional odyssey.



Itinerary

Day 1

Athens

Embarkation starts from 4PM to 5PM

Departure will be at 6PM

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.

Meals: All Meals onboard

Accommodation: *'L'Austral' or 'Le Dumont-d'Urville'*

Day 2

Patmos

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.

Meals: All Meals onboard

Accommodation: *'L'Austral' or 'Le Dumont-d'Urville'*

Day 3

Symi

A simply ravishing gem in the Dodecanese, Symi is located north-west of Rhodes. This island of cypress forests, vineyards and olive orchards, possesses a capital city of the same name that is as colourful as the surrounding countryside. The charm of the port district of Gialos is not to be missed: its quaysides are lined with picturesque houses with multi-coloured facades. You can get to the upper town by car or climb the 500 steps up the Kali Strata ramp. The second option offers superb viewing points of the coast and gorgeous turquoise waters.

Meals: All Meals onboard

Accommodation: *'L'Austral' or 'Le Dumont-d'Urville'*

Day 4

Amorgos

It's no accident that the island of Amorgos was chosen as a shooting location for Luc Besson's film, *The Big Blue*. You too will fall under the charm of this island as your ship edges closer. Amorgos is the most easterly island in the Cyclades and stands out for its rocky inlets with crystal-clear water and its small, picturesque villages. This port of call will be your chance to visit one of the prettiest villages in the Cyclades, Chora, and discover its cobbled streets and whitewashed houses overlooked by a castle. Byzantine churches, windmills and courtyards brimming with flowers complete this typical tableau of timeless Greece.

The ship will depart mid afternoon and continue her voyage.

Sailing in the Santorini Caldera

Sailing in the waters of Santorini caldera is breathtaking. The gigantic scale of the unique setting, the majesty of the high cliffs surrounds this ancient crater that was flooded in 2000 years before Christ, is one of the highlights of the cruise.

From your ship, the colourful whites, greys, reds of the volcanic rocks, the blue of the Aegean Sea and the immaculate perched villages form a unique and marvellous spectacle.

Meals: All Meals onboard

Accommodation: *'L'Austral' or 'Le Dumont-d'Urville'*

Day 5

Adamas, Milos

Although Milos is especially renowned for the famous statue of Venus found in a field there and now displayed in the Louvre in Paris, this mineral island is also a geological treasure. Its volcanic origin is evident in its breathtaking landscapes and the colours of its cliffs, ranging from pure white to deep red. You'll discover the wild beauty of the shorelines lined with the most beautiful beaches in Greece from a ship deck, and you'll enjoy privileged access to emerald-green coves. Tiny fishing ports like Adamas hide there, with brightly-painted doors and terraces. Milos is a charming port of call in the heart of the Cyclades.

Meals: All Meals onboard

Accommodation: *'L'Austral' or 'Le Dumont-d'Urville'*

Day 6

Delos

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.

The ship will depart at midday and continue her voyage.

Paros

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.

Meals: All Meals onboard

Accommodation: *'L'Austral' or 'Le Dumont-d'Urville'*

Day 7

Hydra

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.

Meals: All Meals onboard

Accommodation: *'L'Austral' or 'Le Dumont-d'Urville'*

Day 8

Athens

The ship will arrive early morning.

Disembarkation will commence at 8AM.

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Meals: Breakfast

Inclusions & Exclusions

Inclusions

- 7 Night Cruise on 'L'Austral' or 'Le Dumont-d'Urville' in a Deluxe Stateroom, including all meals, most drinks, and daily shore excursion

About your ship 'L'Austral': Innovative design, sleek shape and profile, refined interior decoration, friendly, intimate atmosphere: French designers and decorators have managed to give this ship a unique style and veritable signature of its own.

Combinations of fine materials, colours and tones harmoniously livened up with touches of bright colour, elegant lines, discreet and subtle refinement... everything has been designed to create a unique atmosphere onboard, a veritable personality: the chic style and naturally relaxing ambiance of a veritable private yacht.

About your ship 'Le Dumont-d'Urville': Le Dumont-d'Urville belongs to a new generation of ships fitted with innovative equipment and designed to be environmentally friendly, and which come equipped with lounges that are largely open to the exterior, an outdoor swimming pool and a Blue Eye, an underwater lounge.

Everything is in place for an extraordinary cruise experience. It's now possible to depart for adventure to the most remote places on the planet onboard a ship offering luxury services.

About your Cabin: The cabin onboard is a Deluxe Stateroom (Deck 3). Upgrades are available but subject to availability. We encourage you to contact us prior to booking to reconfirm availability.

Images courtesy of Ponant.

Exclusions

- Anything not mentioned in the itinerary
- Personal expenses
- Flights
- Travel insurance

ID: A Passport with 6 months validity is required to be taken with you to board the cruise ship.

Currency: on board is Euros

Insurance: All guests must have travel insurance to participate on this tour and will be required to show this prior to departure. (including Remote Area Evacuation). We recommend Covermore travel insurance. To quote and book, please click [HERE](#).

Level of fitness: All participants should be in good general health, able to walk reasonable distances over sometimes uneven terrain, and stand during excursions.

All guests must be able to make their own way up and down stairs in case of emergency.

Travelling on your own? Why not join the [Traveldream Solo Travellers Facebook group](#) where you can interact with other travellers.