

ANCIENT CITIES OF GREECE AND ITALY LUXURY CRUISE

In the peace and quiet of the off-season, far from the crowds, set off on a journey to discover ancient Greek and Italian cities, with fortresses overlooking the Mediterranean, old towns and architectural treasures. From the Peloponnese to the Italian boot , each port of call will reveal grandiose heritage: Epidaurus and Mycenae from Nafplio, ancient jewels and the legendary archaeological site of Olympia from Katakolon, all UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Corfu's Greco-Byzantine and Venetian influences unveil another face of Greece, a harmonious blend of civilisations set into the island's architecture. In the Puglia province , fall under the spell of these historic cities with their mix of ancestral heritage, pretty little streets and Mediterranean traditions.



ITINERARY

Day 1 - Athens

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.



Day 2 - Nafplion

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.

Day 3 - Katakolon

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.

Day 4 - Corfu

Named after the island, Corfu is the most famous city in the Ionian islands. Protected by citadel fortifications, its old city, designated UNESCO World Heritage, displays unusual **Greco-Byzantine and Venetian architecture.** Above the water stands Saint George's church, looking uncannily like a classical temple. The picturesque **Pontikonisi,** a stone's throw from the southern point of the town, is the legendary island where Odysseus landed.

Day 5 - Bari

Extending out along a fertile plain facing the Adriatic Sea amid infinite landscapes sculpted by the water and wind, **Bari** bears the traces of the peoples which, over the centuries, have conquered it, settled it, or simply visited it fleetingly before making their way to faraway lands. Though its exact origins are lost among the mysteries of archaeology, the many sites here provide evidence of the town's rich past. The Saracens, Byzantines, Normans and Swabians have left a trace here, each bringing their own cultural baggage. During your stop here, stroll along the minuscule streets in **Bari Vecchia** , the historic centre, where you will find small churches and monuments from bygone eras.

Day 6 - Taranto

Taranto lies in the region of Puglia, the heel of the Italian boot jutting into the **Adriatic** **and** **Ionian seas** whose crystal-clear waters take on exquisite shades of azure and jade. In this ancient Greek colony built on a peninsula, an 1886 swing bridge links the modern district to the old town, which stands on an artificial island at the entrance to the channel. From Taranto, discover the cave city and rock churches of **Matera** , listed as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.

Day 7 - At sea

During your journey 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 journey without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, depending on the activities offered, or 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.

Day 8 - Valletta

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.

Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.



YOUR SHIP: LE LAPEROUSE

YOUR SHIP: **Le Laperouse**

VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

Featuring innovative and environmentally-friendly equipment, elegantly designed cabins, spacious suites with large windows, and lounge areas that open onto the outside, this new limited-capacity yacht boasting just 92 cabins and suites will offer you a truly unique cruising experience. Aboard this ship that flies the French flag, you will experience the incomparable pleasure of an intimate cruise, with the possibility of exploring an ever-increasing range of destinations in an ethnic-chic ambiance with luxury service. Experience a luxurious setting where the accent is on authenticity and passion for travel. RESTAURANTS As it is an essential part of French culture, gastronomy will naturally have pride of place aboard this new ship. Through its two restaurants, Le Laperouse will invite you on a journey to elegance and epicureanism. In a relaxed atmosphere, a first dining area located on Deck 3 and able to seat 70 will serve grilled meats daily, along with a variety of salads and desserts. To the back of Deck 4, you will find a 260 m² panoramic restaurant which can accommodate all of our passengers in a single sitting. Designed differently to that on our other ships, this dining area, which opens onto the outside, will have a buffet of salads, desserts and cheeses at your disposal. Our discreet and attentive crew will provide table service for hot meals. PUBLIC AREAS Le Laperouse has many common areas that are designed and equipped to meet all of your needs while preserving the intimacy of each passenger. A 140 m² reception area includes: A reception/concierge desk, An excursions desk, The ship's administrative services, The sales office, manned by our Guest Relations Officer, Our 50 m² boutique which sells clothing, jewellery, beauty products, postcards and various accessories, Toilets accessible to passengers with reduced mobility. A new hydraulic platform with adjustable height provides: Easier boarding than on any other cruise ship, Easier Zodiac embarkation and disembarkation for expeditions, Easier access to the sea for swimming and practising various water sports such as kayaking or paddle-boarding. A pool deck offering: A pool with a panoramic view, equipped with a counter-current swimming system, A pleasant solarium, An outdoor bar and lounge with armchairs and sofas. A 200 m² main lounge which can accommodate all of our passengers to share convivial moments and to host activities organised during the day or evening. Lastly, a theatre that seats 188, equipped with: The latest sound and lighting technology, A LED wall as the stage backdrop, for the projection of high-resolution images and videos. Please click the following links to read more about Ponant and the other Ponant





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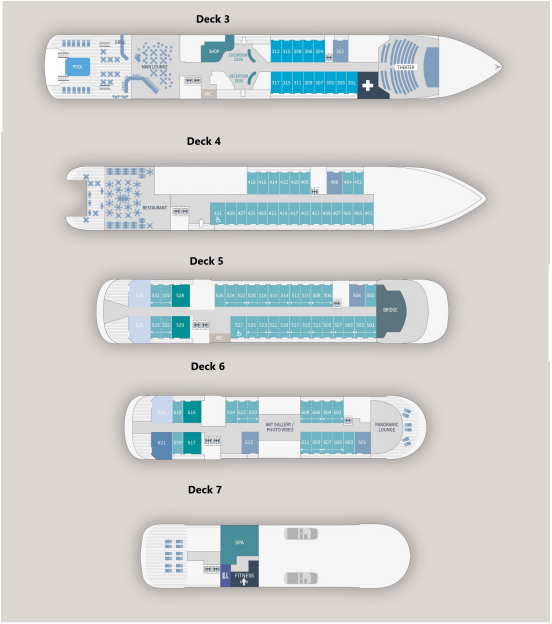
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INSIDE YOUR SHIP



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Deluxe Suite Deck 5



Deluxe Suite Deck 6



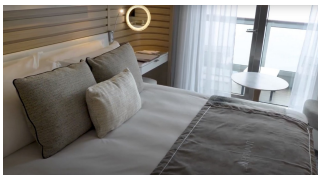
Grand Deluxe Suite



Owner's Suite



Prestige Stateroom Deck 4





Prestige Stateroom Deck 5



Prestige Stateroom Deck 6



Prestige Suite Deck 5



Prestige Suite Deck 6



Privilege Suite Deck 5



Privilege Suite Deck 6





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05-Jan-2028 to 12-Jan-2028

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Deluxe Suite Deck 6	£7185 GBP pp
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Prestige Stateroom Deck 5	£4245 GBP pp
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