

The Small Cruise Ship Collection

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CLASSICAL TREASURES OF THE AEGEAN - GREEK ISLANDS & TURKEY CRUISE

Come with us on a relaxing and informative voyage through some of the most historic and scenically beautiful places in Turkey and Greece. After many years of experience of operating cruises in the region, we believe we have the perfectly balanced itinerary with a mix of guided excursions and time at leisure to discover the charming towns independently. Sailing in October means we have the added benefit of pleasant temperatures and crowd free sites making it a lovely time to explore this corner of antiquity. We begin our voyage in Istanbul from where we explore some of Turkey's most fascinating places such as Troy, Pergamon and the ancient city of Ephesus, a stunning site where digging has been taking place for over a century. Sailing on to Greece, we will spend time on the island of Patmos where we visit the grotto of St John and we also call in to the island of Rhodes from where we will explore the ancient Acropolis of Lindos. Returning to Turkey, we visit the Turquoise Coast, an astoundingly beautiful stretch of azure coastline backed by the luscious, forested hills where we will discover several ancient sites including Perge, the Amphitheatre of Aspendos and Side before our arrival in the Cypriot port of Limassol. In the company of just 100 or so fellow travellers, our trips ashore will be a pleasure as we explore with local guides, adding immeasurably to our knowledge of the region. Whether you are interested in ancient historical sites, discovering new places and islands, or simply enjoy cruising through beautiful regions aboard a small ship, our exploration of the Turquoise Coast and the islands of the Aegean has something for everyone.



ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Istanbul, Turkey.

Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky and enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we sail this evening.

Day 2 Canakkale & Troy.

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Day 4 Kusadasi & Ephesus.

Spend the morning cruising through the Dardanelles before we arrive over lunch into the port of Canakkale, our gateway for Troy. Ongoing archaeological excavations have revealed nine different layers of cities superimposed in rings on a massive mound rising above the Plain of Ilium. It was at one of these cities, as legend has it, that the Greeks fought the Trojans as told by Homer in the Iliad. Our tour follows the excavations made by Heinrich Schliemann, the archaeologist who discovered Troy and 'Priam's Treasure', the jewels that, Schliemann claimed, were worn by Helen of Troy. We will walk the walls that held Helen of Troy and look down at the plain where Achilles dragged the dead body of Hector. We can also visit the on-site Troy Museum.

Moor this morning at Kusadasi, our base to explore the nearby ancient city of Ephesus, a stunning and partially excavated site where digging has been taking place for over a century. Broad streets are lined by impressive buildings including the Library of Celsus and the temples of Serapis and Hadrian. Once the capital of Ionia, St Paul preached here on his second missionary journey and we will see the Church of the Virgin Mary, the most important Christian monument in Ephesus. Also see the spectacular Grand Theatre, originally built in the 3rd century BC by the Greeks, and later expanded by the Romans to its present capacity of 24,000. We will enjoy an afternoon at leisure in Kusadasi.

Day 3 Pergamon.

From our berth in Dikili we will drive inland, past fertile fields and olive trees, to the present day modern town of Bergama, once known as Pergamon, a great centre of culture. Today Pergamon is one of Turkey's finest archaeological sites. We will visit the Asclepion, a healing centre from the 4th century BC and one of the most important sites of Pergamon. Discover the Temple of Asclepius, the amphitheatre, and walk through the sacred corridor and down the ancient, arcaded, marble-paved boulevard. Continue into the town of Bergama and visit the Archaeological Museum which houses relics discovered during the excavations of Pergamon. En-route we will see the Basilica which was one of the earliest of the Seven Churches of Asia Minor. Take a cable car up to the Acropolis to explore the remains of the citadel and the city walls, the foundations of the Zeus Altar, and the Royal Palace. Lunch will be served ashore.

Day 5 Patmos, Greece.

Of all the Greek islands, Patmos is the most sacred to Christians both Orthodox and Western and it was here that St John received his revelation. This morning we will make our way to the grotto of St John. This small cave, now converted into the beautiful chapel, is where the Saint lived, had his revelation and wrote 'Book of the Apocalypse'. From here continue to the village of Chora, with its simple houses and Byzantine churches and climb to the Monastery of St John the Theologian. Upon entering into the courtyard, admire the intricate pebbled laid floor, decorated arches and frescoes adorning the entrance to the chapel of Christodoulos. This afternoon and evening are at leisure to explore the picturesque town of Skala or maybe enjoy a swim at a nearby beach.

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Day 6 Rhodes.

Our final call in Greece is the island of Rhodes from where we visit the ancient Acropolis of Lindos. From here the views of the Pelagus and St Paul's Bay, where the apostle anchored during his voyage to Ephesus, are stunning. The Medieval walls which guard Lindos were constructed by the Knights of St John. Alternatively take a walk through the old town visiting the Grand Masters Palace, built to reflect the Papal Palace of Avignon and planned to serve as a fortress in times of war, a peacetime residence for the Grand Master of the Hospitallers, the Knights of St John, and a meeting place for senior knights. Later we walk past the impressive houses on the "Avenue of the Knights". Maybe join our speaker for a lecture in the lounge as we spend the afternoon at sea.

Day 7 Antalya, Turkey.

Over breakfast we will arrive in Antalya from where we explore the principal Roman ruins along Turkey's southern coast. We pass the modern city of Antalya en-route to the ancient city of Perge which dates back to 1000 BC and was founded by Mopsus and Calchas after their retreat from Troy. See the Basilica of Perge, which played an important role in the spread of Christianity, the 2nd century AD stadium, the baths complex and two magnificent round towers of the Greek Gate. We drive further east for a visit to Aspendos, whose amphitheatre built in the 2nd century AD is considered the best preserved in the Mediterranean. After lunch in a local restaurant continue to Antalya to visit the excellent Archaeological Museum or return to the ship for some free time.

Day 8 Alanya.

From our berth in Alanya we have the option to drive along the beautiful Turkish Riviera towards the ancient city of Side which was one of the leading Pamphylian cities on the south coast of Anatolia. Visit the Grand Theatre, a perfect example of a Roman theatre built on vaults on flat land. Walk through the town, view the old harbour and see the remains of the Apollo Temple. Alternatively spend time to explore the town of Alanya with its Medieval fort at your own pace. We will sail over lunch and have an afternoon at sea as we sail towards Cyprus.

Day 9 Limassol, Cyprus to London.

Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

Please Note:

Itineraries are subject to change.

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YOUR SHIP: HEBRIDEAN SKY

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VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

Hebridean Sky has always been known for its effortless elegance, impeccable service and atmosphere of charm and camaraderie. Now we add increased adventure options and an on-site Passenger Service Representative. Hebridean Sky is the perfect blend of luxury and adventurous exploration. Is it a luxury ship? An adventure ship? It's both! The vessel underwent a multi-million pound refurbishment in Sweden in Spring 2016.

ONBOARD DINING Great expeditions require great food! We are pleased to offer daily changing breakfast, lunch and dinner menus with an emphasis on providing well balanced and nutritional cuisine. Our team of international chefs has boat loads of creativity and you are sure to experience a variety of interesting dishes throughout your voyage. The restaurant is located on Deck 2 and our service team looks forward to providing a memorable dining experience.

IMPECCABLE SMALL-SHIP AMENITIES Returning from excursions, passengers enjoy complimentary refreshments, afternoon tea and all-day coffee in The Club, a gracious space for relaxation, surrounded by panoramic windows. Other Sea Explorer features include: Library with Internet access Lounge with audiovisual facilities Dining room Wraparound sun deck with Jacuzzi Exercise room

Medical facilities with available doctor Elevator serving all passenger decks Swimming/zodiac platform All Voyages Include: Up to Two Pre-Voyage Hotel Nights Complimentary Wine or Beer with Dinner Certified Emergency MD and Clinic World Class Cuisine Live Entertainment Complimentary Coffee/Tea station Voyage Photographer Dedicated Passenger Service Manager Complimentary Expedition Jacket Please note deck



plan may vary.

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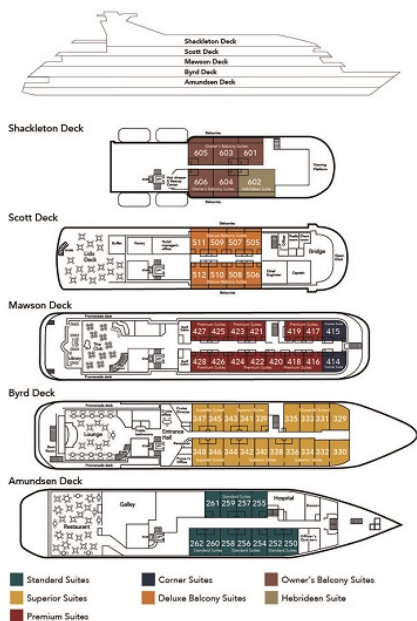
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INSIDE YOUR SHIP



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PRICING



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