

## **CULTURES OF EAST MEDITERRANEAN - TURKEY & GREEK ISLANDS CRUISE**

Experience the magic of the Eastern Mediterranean on this unforgettable voyage. From the bustling streets of Istanbul to the charming town of Kavala, and the vibrant city of Thessaloniki, this cruise takes you through some of the world's most beautiful and historic destinations. Explore the ancient ruins of Volos and Chios, stroll through the picturesque streets of Kusadasi and Rhodes, and soak up the sun on Heraklion's breathtaking beaches.



## **ITINERARY**

DAY 1 PRE CRUISE

DAY 2 ISTANBUL

An enchanting city that divides two continents, we'll approach Istanbul from the Bosphorus Strait, one of the world's most important maritime routes. With the shores of Asia to the east, the first Bosphorus Bridge to the north and 'old Istanbul' to the south, few other ports offer such an immersive welcome. After disembarking, you'll soon discover that the city is a vibrant, inclusive and friendly place that blends its tradition and modernity with ease. The history here is diverse and far-reaching. The city's strategic location attracted many conquering forces over the years including the Greeks, Romans,



Venetians and Ottomans. Istanbul was also the final point on the legendary Silk Road, attracting traders from the world over, and paving the way for the culturally diverse Istanbul of today.

DAY 3 KAVALA

The quiet and rarely explored port of Kavala in eastern Macedonia is a gateway to the unexpected delights of Northern Greece. The town is an intriguing blend of history and culture, architectural landmarks and flower-filled courtyards, groomed beaches and natural wonders. Known in ancient times as Neopolis, meaning 'new city', Kavala is also a historically significant seaport. One of the first ports of call for Middle Eastern traders, it was once a crucial point of access to European markets. Over time the post has held importance for Normans, Franks, Venetians and the Ottomans. Today the alleys of the Ottoman old town still lead up to a Byzantine citadel, providing a magical welcome into Northern Greece.

### DAY 4 THESSALONIKI

Nestled in the heart of the Thermaic Gulf, Greece's second city is a vibrant and chaotic mix of natural beauty, ancient history, fascinating culture and incredible cuisine. Comprised of many different neighbourhoods, all with their own unique vibrancy, Thessaloniki has evolved over millennia into the sprawling metropolis of today. Get the best views of the city from the Byzantine walls where the glorious blend of old and new can really be appreciated. Evidence of the city's rich history is everywhere. The Palace, Triumphal Arch and Rotunda are remnants from the reign of 4th-century emperor Galerius

Maximiliano. Exploring the narrow lanes of Ano Poli will take you through one of the city's oldest districts and past many ancient castles and monuments.

#### DAY 5 VOLOS

The homeland of the mythical centaur, the port city of Volos offers an intoxicating combination of salty sea breeze, fresh mountain air and fascinating mythology and history. This is the city where Jason and his Argonauts set sail on a quest for the Golden Fleece, and here you can find a replica of the infamous Argo, recreated based on historical texts. Take a stroll along the extensive seafront, lined with traditional cafes and restaurants. The fish tavernas here are renowned, so be sure to stop off for some freshly caught seafood and sample some of the traditional tsipouro (a local spirit).

## DAY 6 CHIOS

Located in the beautiful Aegean Sea, Chios is the birthplace of the Greek poet Homer and is known for its incredible beaches and fascinating medieval villages. Pyrgi and Olympi stand out for their elaborate architecture and intricate geometrical patterns. When the Roman Empire fell, Chios joined the Byzantine Empire. Castles, villages and strongholds were built, most of which remain today. Chios remains largely untouched by mass tourism and walking through the narrow streets of the villages and along the harbour is an authentic, sensory experience.

DAY 7 Kusadasi





Kusadasi is the gateway to Ephesus, one of the ancient world's most legendary cities. Remarkably well preserved, Ephesus is a UNESCO listed world heritage site and the best place in the Mediterranean to learn about past civilisations. A short distance from Ephesus, the Temple of Artemis (also known as the Temple of Diana), one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, once stood. Although the temple is no longer there, it is still possible to walk amongst its foundations. After the Romans arrived in 129 BC, Ephesus became the capital of western Asian Minor. Wander through its ancient streets and step back in time into one of Rome's most important commercial hubs.

DAY 8 Heraklion, Crete

Heraklion, Crete's largest city and capital, holds a rich history dating to the Minoans and Venetians. The Palace of Knossos, around 2000 BC, is a key Greek archaeological site, central to Minoan civilization. The Heraklion Archaeological Museum showcases Minoan artefacts, including Knossos' famous frescoes. The city's Venetian legacy is seen in the 16th-century fortress and the Lions (Morosini Fountain), supplying 1,000 barrels of water daily.

DAY 9 Rhodes

Rhodes Town, one of Europe's best medieval walled towns, is known for the 14th century UNESCO-listed Old Town constructed by the Knights of St. John and the 100-foot Colossus statue that once stood in the harbour. Highlights include the bustling

Turkish district, Grand Masters' Palace adorned with marble mosaics and Gothic Street of the Knights. Nearby Lindos offers whitewashed streets and an Acropolis with views over St. Paul's Bay.

DAY 10 Limassol

Limassol is the second-largest city in Cyprus, lies between the ancient sites of Amathous and Kourion. The city has witnessed various occupations. Modern waterfront buildings and a sleek promenade stand in contrast to the ancient core of the Old Town. Notably, Limassol Castle played a historic role, serving as the venue for Richard the Lionheart's marriage to Berengaria of Navarre after his conquest of the island in 1191.

### Please Note:

Itinerary changes and surprising experiences are part of expedition cruise life. The world has a habit of amazing us with incredible things when we yield to the unexpected. Join us with an open mind and a sense of adventure and you'll find that this can pay off in the most rewarding ways.





## **YOUR SHIP: DIANA**

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**VESSEL TYPE:** 

LENGTH:

**PASSENGER CAPACITY:** 

**BUILT/REFURBISHED:** 

Launched in 2023, SH Diana provides elegant and spacious 5-star accommodation for 192 guests in 96 spacious staterooms and suites, the vast majority with large balconies. Operated by an onboard team of 140 she provides a high level of personal service, exploring the Mediterranean and its famous sites of antiquity. Now sit back, relax and take a moment to get to know this amazing new ship, purpose-designed for our unique cultural expedition cruises. Named after the Ancient Roman goddess of light, the moon, hunting and the wilderness, SH Diana been specially designed for worldwide cruising to explore the most inspiring and inaccessible places on earth. Building on the outstanding amenities of her sister ships, she adds a dedicated Multifunctional Room next to the Observation Lounge, a Private Dining Room for special occasions, and two tenders which bring guests a comfortable alternative to Zodiacs for expedition landings. A Polar Class 6 ice-strengthened hull combines with extra-large stabilisers to make your journey as comfortable as possible. SH Diana has been designed for immersive experiences, with extensive outside deck areas, multiple observation points and bright, open and relaxing public spaces with unobstructed views. The pleasure and safety of our

guests is paramount at all times, cared for by our attentive crew and seasoned expedition leaders. Cutting edge hygiene technology protects the health of all on board to the highest standards and includes air conditioning with UV sanitisation systems. SH Diana's 96 staterooms, including 11 suites, are each a superbly comfortable home from home and all feature panoramic sea views, a flame-effect fireplace, original works of art, plush couches, premium pocket sprung mattresses, en-suite bathrooms with glass-enclosed rain showers, and Egyptian cotton towels, bathrobes and sheets. A pillow menu offers customised head and neck comfort during rest, while a large flat screen TV, espresso machine with IIIy premium coffee, tea making facilities with the finest Kusmi teas, and a minibar with refreshments enhance relaxation at any time. In-room dining is of course available at all hours. Wheelchair access Guests who use wheelchairs must bring their own, as we have only a small number of wheelchairs stored onboard for emergencies. To ensure ease of movement on the ship, wheelchairs and mobility aids must be no wider than 65cm. All mobility or medical equipment brought on board must be capable of being carried safely and must be declared before sailing. To ensure that all guests can safely evacuate during an emergency, guests requiring a wheelchair can only be accommodated in our ADA-accessible cabins. We offer an Oceanview and a Balcony stateroom on Diana. These staterooms are specifically designed to be completely ADA compliant and have a fully operable wheelchair-access wet unit. Diana has two lifts, serving every passenger deck apart from the Stargazing top deck, which is, therefore, more difficult to access, as are the Aft Marina and



Swan's Nest forward observation platform. Also, we don't have special equipment to access the swimming pool, jacuzzi, or sauna. Otherwise, the ship is entirely at your disposal. Many of the expeditions ashore in remote places are by Zodiac. Boarding these boats and returning aboard can present challenges for wheelchair users, as can navigating uneven terrain. These challenges are by no means always insurmountable, though, and our highly experienced crew is trained to provide reliable advice and assistance. They will make every effort to ensure wheelchair-using guests enjoy a memorable experience at each destination. Our general guidance, however, is to recommend wheelchair users travel with a companion for their ease and enjoyment. If you prefer to remain aboard, our panoramic interiors and ample open decks ensure an immersive, intimate experience of your inspiring



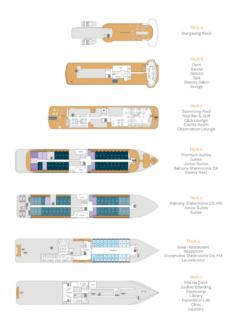
surroundings.





# **INSIDE YOUR SHIP**







# **PRICING**