

FROM THE CANALS OF VENICE TO THE CITY OF GODS LUXURY CRUISE

Set off to discover thecultural jewels of the Aegean, Adriatic and Ionian Seas, between historic towns and idyllic landscapes. During this journey between the City of the Gods and the City of the Doges, you will sail in the mythical Bay of Kotor and the Corinth Canal, and discover heritage splendours that inspire a sense of wonder canal de Corinthe, et decouvrirez des splendeurs patrimoniales propices a l'emerveillement. Villages nestling in the heart of isolated coves, colourful houses among the olive trees, beaches, cliffs plunging into the dark blue waters and legendary accounts all invite contemplation. Each port of call will reveal an aspect of this exceptional territory, with its blend of legendary historic sites (Acropolis of Athens, Stari Grad Plain on the island of Hvar), architectural treasures and sun-kissed scenery.



ITINERARY

Day 1 - Venice

Proud and eternal, Venice has reigned on its lagoon ever since the 6th century. You may think you know this city before even setting foot here. You will inevitably fall in love with the charm of the innumerable treasures of the Serenissima: **Saint Mark 's square,** the **basilica** , **Doges palace,** the **Grand Canal** and the **gondolas.** Yet, secret Venice is also waiting for you to explore its little interlacing streets and canals, to ramble through its squares and to push open the doors of its churches. The city's extraordinary heritage shouldn't stop you from enjoying a glass of Spritz and a few tramezzini.

Day 2 - Rovinj



Rovinj is located in Istria, a region bordering Slovenia. This becomes apparent as you walk through its old cobblestoned town. There are many **monuments of Venetian influence** here. If you study the Balbi arch, you will see the winged lion, symbol of Venice. The bell-tower erected beside **Saint Euphemia Cathedral** was designed like the bell of Saint Mark in Venice. From the top of the tower, you can scan the entire historical district. To absorb its quaint atmosphere, take a walk in the ochre and sepia-coloured streets leading to bustling squares and terraces shaded by canvas awnings.

Day 3 - Primosten

Located south of Sibenik, **Primosten** is a picturesque village on the Dalmatian Coast, whose charm is distilled, via its narrow streets, through pretty stone houses and an architectural heritage influenced by the Venetian Republic. Built on a rocky peninsula, the historic city was connected to land by a mobile bridge from which it earned its name in the 16th century: in Croatian, primostiti means "to bridge". The high point of the village, the Church of St. George watches over the stunning bay enveloped in crystal-clear waters while, to the north of the peninsula, the charming beach of **Raduca** reveals itself between the skies and the pine forest. Further on, the vines of the renowned **babi varietal** , protected from erosion by low stone walls, complete this idyllic setting.

Day 3 - Split

On the Dalmatian coast, the town of Split offers cultural visits in a seaside atmosphere. Close to the seafront shaded by palm trees, the historical centre listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site, boasts a unique building: **the Diocletian 's Palace.** Here you will explore its galleries, courtyards with carved columns, as well as a former mausoleum converted into a church, namely **Saint Domnius Cathedral.** If you get peckish, stop off at a terrace in the **Pjaca,** the main square in the old town, where you can try a palacinka, a kind of pancake topped with melted cheese.

Day 4 - Hvar

Off the coast of Split, Hvar will surprise you by its traditions that have not changed since Antiquity. The country's oldest town, **Stari Grad,** is here on this Dalmatian Island. The town nestles by a cove on the north-west coast, surrounded by dry stone wall structures on the Stari Grad plains. These have been designated a UNESCO World Heritage site because they were built in the time of the Ancient Greeks. From these parcels of land come wines and olive oil manufactured manually. In the upper part of town, it is possible to discover hams and cheeses made by local producers.

Day 5 - Dubrovnik

Emblem of the Dalmatian coast, Dubrovnik is magnificently positioned on a rocky spur. History is sovereign here, in this ancient city, now a **listed UNESCO World Heritage site.** You will perhaps be surprised by the proportions of La Placa, the central drag through the city. The sheer width of it can be explained by the fact that it straddles a former lagoon. The elegant houses along La Placa are built in the legendary travertine stone. At Pile gate, you will be greeted by the statue of the patron saint of Dubrovnik, and you can admire the coastline as you **walk along the ramparts.** But what's inside **Fort Saint John,** adjoining the outer walls? A maritime museum and an aquarium featuring rare fish from the Adriatic.

Day 6 - Sailing in the Bay of Kotor



The long walls of the **fortified city** of Kotor unfurl before your eyes as you admire this **medieval construction** enclosed between the sea and the rugged cliffs from the decks of your ship. The still, deep waters of the bay plus the clouds of mist floating here and there create a **surreal and magical atmosphere**. Small islands with churches and fortresses built on them remind us that a proud maritime people has lived here for centuries, in this bay that forms a perfect natural harbour, used by sailors since ancient times. At the crossroads of **Latin and Byzantine cultures** , you will have the pleasure of observing the natural treasures of **Montenegro** during an unforgettable journey.

Day 6 - Kotor

Situated in one of Montenegro's most beautiful bays, **the medieval city** of Kotor is a small town full of charm, truly imbued with the traditions and stories of another time. Built between the 12th and 14th centuries, this village, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** , has preserved many historical monuments from this epoch. During your stop, be sure to admire the impressive castle that dominates the town, and let yourself fall under the charm of its maze of small streets and intimate squares on which folk festivals featuring magnificent colourful costumes are often organised.

Day 7 - Parga

An ancient port in the Epirus region, picturesque Parga is located on the western coast of the **Greek mainland.** **Ancient classical ruins** and the **Venetian citadel **bear witness to the town's colourful history and the diverse influences that shaped it. Take the time to discover this ancient fishing village built like an amphitheatre, by strolling along the picturesque maze of pedestrian streets lined with small, typical Greek houses decorated with flowers and many lively taverns.

Day 8 - Crossing the Corinth Canal

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!

Day 8 - Galaxidi

Encircled by captivating arid mountains and a sea front of unrivalled beauty, picturesque Galaxidi stands proudly in the Gulf of Corinth, on the shores of Krisaikos Bay. You will fall in love with the authentic character of this preserved and majestic town, with its paved little streets edged with former neo-classical residences, remnants of the naval era, and sumptuous religious buildings. Like one of the town's symbols: the church of Agios Nikolaos (Saint Nicholas). The building with Byzantine architecture dominates the town, and boasts two bell towers and a monumental dome.

Day 9 - 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.

Please Note:

Itineraries are subject to change.



YOUR SHIP: LE CHAMPLAIN

YOUR SHIP: **Le Champlain**

VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

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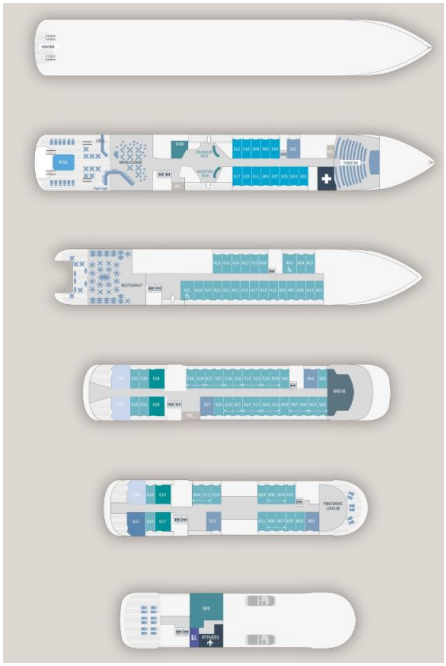
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Prestige Stateroom Deck 4





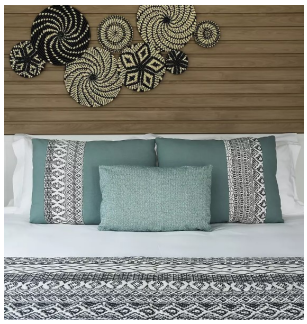
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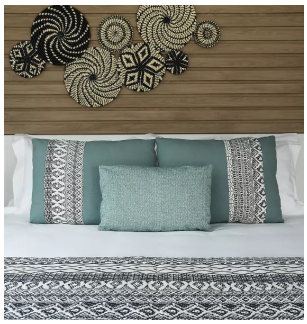
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