GREEK COAST & AEGEAN ISLANDS LUXURY CRUISE

From Thessaly to the Peloponnese via Turkey, set off on a journey to ports nestling in gulfs, unspoiled islands, and ancient monasteries of Meteora that seem to be hanging from the sky. 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. Discover the idyllic beaches of the island of Skiathos , the Venetian castle of Myrina , built on a rocky promontory overlooking the sandy shores of the island of Limnos, and sail along the coast ofMount Athos , a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Featuring a variety of history and landscapes, this discovery of the Greek islands and its ancient sites promises a timeless escapade.

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 - Skiathos

The small island of Skiathos is one of the treasures of the Aegean Sea, particularly appreciated for its magnificent beaches with turquoise waters, and also famous as one of the sites where the **film Mamma****Mia**! was shot You will immediately fall under the charm of the main town, Skiathos, with its white houses, narrow streets and typical restaurants. You will have the possibility of discovering the former house of the famous novelist and poet **Alexandros Papadiamantis** , now a museum, as well as the**Monastery of the Annunciation** , commonly known as the**Evangelistria Monastery** , a post-Byzantine jewel with magnificent wall paintings. The many hiking trails will take you from coves to shady forests in an idyllic Mediterranean setting.

Day 3 - Volos

Volos, one of the **biggest port cities** in Greece, is located at the foot of **Mount Pelion**. According to mythology, Mount Pelion was a place of celebration for gods and heroes, and the home of the centaurs. The beauty of the place and the magical atmosphere that reigns here can indeed only have been inspired by the gods: the clear water that flows from a multitude of sources bathes the plane trees, apple trees, oaks, beech trees, gardenias, camellias, and hydrangeas that thrive in the fertile soil of **Thessaly**. Do not miss your chance to visit **picturesque village of Milies** in the hills, and to discover its traditional architecture.

Day 4 - Thessaloniki

Thessaloniki, **Greece 's second city** after Athens, is in the Macedonia region, on the shores of the Aegean Sea. Visiting its historic centre means exploring the entire history of ancient civilisations and peoples: Roman, Greek, Ottoman, Jewish, Byzantine, and so on. Cultures have come together and left their mark on many monuments in the city and in its architecture. No fewer than 15 monuments are on the UNESCO World Heritage list, such as the magnificent **Byzantine church, the Hagia Sophia**, with its splendid 8th-12-century mosaics. Thessaloniki is also a **modern and lively city** , animated during the day as well as night, with its many seafront bars and its markets.

Day 5 - Limnos Island

A **volcanic** **island** located near the Dardanelles Strait, **Limnos** was venerated during Antiquity. Legend has it that Hephaestus, the god of fire, had his forge here. Now one of Greece's major seaside resorts, Lemnos offers its visitors many **superb sandy beaches**. It is also home to several **archaeological sites** , such as the towers of Kastro, an ancient acropolis fortified by the Venetians, or the neolithic site of Poliochni and the city of Hephaestia. Renowned for its olives, fruits, wheat and honey, and for the authenticity of its inhabitants, Lemnos is also known for the quality of its **restaurants** , ideal for tasting typical Greek dishes.

Day 5 - Sailing along Mount Athos

Mount Athos, a peninsula measuring 50 km (31 miles) long and 12 km (7 miles) wide and which rises to an altitude of 2,030 metres (6,660 feet), is also called "**Holy Mountain** " because of the twenty or so **orthodox monasteries** and the 2,000 monks that it shelters. It was added to the **UNESCO World Heritage** list in 1988 thanks to its long religious history, the well-maintained agrarian architecture of the monasteries and the preservation of the flora and fauna around the mountain. Sailing around the peninsula, you will admire the majestic monasteries clinging to the rock face and overlooking

the Aegean Sea.

Day 6 - Kusadasi

The attractive **seaside resort of Kusadasi** is located in a gulf on the western coast of Turkey. You can bathe there in clear waters or stroll along the coastal walk, in the shade of palms. In the historical district, you can take a mosey down the narrow streets and explore the colourful shops in the bazaar. Close by, the **Ephesus archaeological site** in the hillsides provides an opportunity to discover the ruins of one of the most famous cities of Antiquity.

Day 7 - 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.

Day 8 - 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 caiques 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.**

Day 9 - Athens

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Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.

YOUR SHIP: LE CHAMPLAIN

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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. As the first ship in a new series, Le Champlain will embody the unique atmosphere that is the cruise line's hallmark: a subtle blend of refinement, intimacy and comfort. 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 Champlain 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 Like Le Boreal and its sisterships, Le Champlain 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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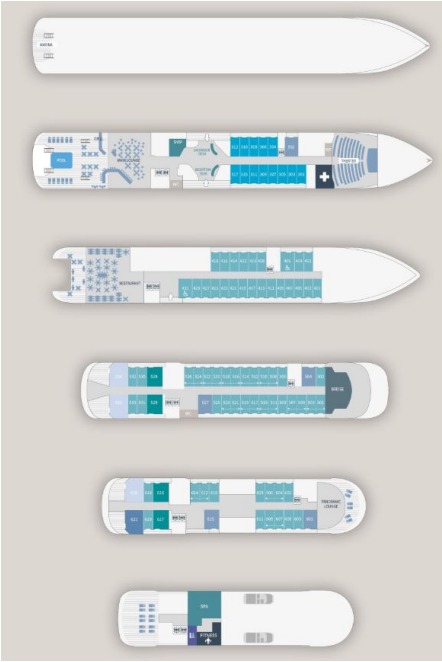

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Deluxe Suite Deck 5

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Grand Deluxe Suite

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Prestige Stateroom Deck 4

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Deluxe Suite Deck 3	£9135 GBP pp
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Grand Deluxe Suite	£13055 GBP pp
Prestige Stateroom Deck 4	£5205 GBP pp
Prestige Stateroom Deck 5	£5455 GBP pp
Prestige Suite Deck 5	£10115 GBP pp
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Prestige Stateroom Deck 4	£5205 GBP pp
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Grand Deluxe Suite	£13055 GBP pp
Prestige Stateroom Deck 6	£5745 GBP pp
Prestige Suite Deck 5	£10115 GBP pp
Privilege Suite Deck 5	£10855 GBP pp
Deluxe Stateroom	£4965 GBP pp
Deluxe Suite Deck 3	£9135 GBP pp
Privilege Suite Deck 6	£10855 GBP pp