

ZAGREB TO ATHENS: THE TIDE OF TIME - GREECE & ADRIATIC CRUISE

Welcome to Aurora Expeditions' The Tide of Time Explore the dynamic coastlines of Croatia, Montenegro, Albania and Greece, where centuries of history unfold amid stunning landscapes and vibrant cultures. From the enduring legacies of Ancient Greece and Rome to the diverse influences of the Byzantine, Ottoman and Venetian empires, these lands abound with tales of conquests, alliances and cultural exchanges that resonate today. Marvel at Dubrovnik's imposing city walls and savour the charm of Kotor's fjord-fed waterfront. We discover Albania's hidden gems, long hidden by travel restrictions, and sail to the picturesque 'holiday island' of Corfu, before navigating the engineering marvel of the Corinth Canal and exploring the mystical Oracle of Delphi. Our journey ends in Athens, where myth and modernity seamlessly blend amid ancient ruins, and a bustling city life embodies 'everything Mediterranean'. This voyage promises an exploration of one of Europe's most diverse regions, revealing enduring legacies that make this corner of the Mediterranean a must-see destination.



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Day 1 Arrive Zagreb, Croatia

Welcome to Croatia. On arrival at Zagreb airport, make your way to the arrivals hall to meet our representative, followed by a transfer to our group hotel. At the hotel, visit our hospitality desk in the lobby, to meet our team, who will provide you with useful information regarding pre-embarkation procedures and about your time in Zagreb. You will also receive cabin tags for your luggage. Please clearly label the tags with your name and your cabin number on the ship.

Your day is at leisure to explore independently, enjoy the hotel facilities or simply relax after your flight.

This evening, we invite you to join us in celebration to start our journey, where you will meet your host and fellow passengers at a Welcome Reception.



Accommodation: Zagreb Hotel (or similar)

Meals: Welcome Reception (drinks and canapes)

Note: to not miss out on our Welcome Reception, please ensure your flight to arrive in Lisbon no later than 2:00pm.

Day 2 Embark Zagreb (Port: Rijeka)

This afternoon we embark Douglas Mawson at the port of Rijeka, but first we discover Croatia's vibrant capital, Zagreb on a locally guided introductory tour, with time to wander the city at your own pace.

A city once defined by Soviet-era concrete and uniform apartment blocks, Zagreb has undergone a striking transformation, emerging with creativity, a cafe society and a renewed sense of identity. Today, it pulses with street art, lively restaurants, and a quiet confidence born from reinvention.

In the historic Upper Town, Zagreb is reconnecting with its Habsburg roots. Cobblestone streets wind past grand facades, elegant church spires, and charming squares, echoing a more ornate, imperial past. The city's appeal lies in its contrasts, where faded grandeur meets contemporary energy. Zagreb also delights visitors with its unexpected quirks. From the thought-provoking Museum of Broken Relationships to one of the world's narrowest streets, the city embraces the unusual with charm. Even its free-roaming cats have become local celebrities, adding to the whimsical character that makes our morning exploring Zagreb both fun and fascinating.

After a two-hour drive from the capital to the coast, board Douglas Mawson, settle into your cabin and join mandatory safety briefings. This evening, enjoy a Welcome Dinner where you'll meet our Aurora Expeditions team and crew.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner onboard

Day 3 Šibenik, Croatia (Port: Šibenik)

Nestled along Croatia's Adriatic coast, Šibenik is a historic gem known for its medieval charm, winding stone alleys, and impressive coastal views. Founded by Croats, it boasts a rich heritage and is home to the UNESCO-listed St. James Cathedral. Its striking architecture and dramatic fortresses also caught the eye of filmmakers--Šibenik appeared as the city of Braavos in Game of Thrones, with the cathedral and St. John's Fortress featured prominently in several scenes.

This morning, choose from a range of 'Your Choice' experiences, including visits to natural wonders and UNESCO World Heritage sites. In the afternoon, explore the historic charm of Šibenik. With Douglas Mawson berthed at the centrally located port, the old town and its captivating streets are just a short stroll away.

Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences.

Option 1 - Morning experience: The Stella Croatica Ethno Village

Join us on a cultural journey through Stella Croatica Ethno Village -- a place where Dalmatian tradition, nature, and heritage come together. Once a site of hard yet simple living, the

village has transitioned into a peaceful retreat where you can connect with nature - Croatian style. Stroll through orchards and centuries-old olive groves, breathe in the scents of native herbs in the Aroma Park, and visit a Mediterranean garden carved into rock, where olive, fig, and pomegranate trees grow surrounded by healing plants. It's the perfect place to pause and enjoy the peace and quiet. Explore the village's living museum, where stone houses are authentically restored and furnished to reflect traditional Croatian village life. You'll step back in time and discover how people lived, worked, and connected with the land, while uncovering the story of olive oil, and other Croatian staples and treats. This visit offers a glimpse of life in a rural village and is a true Dalmatian delight.

Option 2 - Morning experience: A UNESCO Feast - Trogir

A one hour drive takes us to the waterfront town of Trogir, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1997. Squeezed between the mainland and the larger island of iovo, Trogir is a veritable open-air museum. Our locally guided introductory tour follows passageways lined with medieval buildings, Renaissance-era palaces, stone houses, churches and towers. Each alleyway is lined by eclectic craft shops, restaurants and bars, making a stroll through Trogir a highlight of any visit to Croatia. There is time to explore independently, before we return to Šibenik, having filled our morning with UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Option 3 - Morning experience: Krka National Park- a Water Wonderland

This morning, nature enthusiasts are in for a treat as we head inland to explore one of Croatia's natural treasures on foot -- arguably the best way to take in its breathtaking landscapes. Spanning 109 km², Krka National Park is home to over 1,000 plant species and more than 200 bird species. Its 17 travertine waterfalls flow along the Krka River, which descends 238 metres (780 feet) from its source in the Dinaric Mountains. Extensive wooden walkways lead us through lush greenery and past waterfalls that gush over moss-covered stones in powerful torrents, offering dramatic and unforgettable views. We'll visit the park's most iconic and impressive waterfall, Skradinski Buk. Stretching 400 metres (1312 feet) wide and nearly 46 metres (150 feet) high, its thunderous roar can be heard before it comes into sight. Well-placed vantage points provide sweeping views of spectacular cascades throughout the park, which is a dream setting for photographers.

Day 4 Kor ula (Port: Kor ula)

We arrive at the island of Kor ula, where our 'Your Choice' experiences fill your morning, with your afternoon free to relax onboard, or remain in town for a self-exploration. We sail south mid-afternoon with our eyes set on the famed travel destination of Dubrovnik.

At 48 Kilometres (30 miles) long and five miles wide, Kor ula is one of Croatia's smaller islands, yet its population of 15,000 makes it the country's second most populous. Often referred to as 'Little Dubrovnik' for its medieval squares, churches and palaces, Kor ula is steeped in Venetian architectural influence, a legacy of the stonemasons who flocked here during the Venetian era. The island is covered in dense woods and lush Mediterranean shrub, its coastline hiding many pristine bays and coves, whose numerous small villages produce olive oils, liquors, and some of the best white wines in Croatia; notably Grk



and Pošip, which can only be enjoyed locally.

Kor ula's most notable claim to fame is as the birthplace of the indomitable explorer Marco Polo, with his legacy celebrated through place names and a dedicated museum. Cultural traditions thrive here, especially the Moreska sword dance, a captivating 16th-century performance, and Klapa, a popular form of cappella singing. With its blend of Adriatic charm and cultural heritage, Kor ula offers a unique glimpse into the heart of Dalmatian life, making it a top destination for travellers to Croatia.

Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences.

Option 1 - Morning experience: Walk Old Kor ula Town

Join our walking tour of Kor ula's medieval walled Old Town this morning, led by a local guide. Starting directly from the pier, we enter the meticulously laid out Old Town, designed in a fishbone pattern, with 26 cobblestone streets that naturally harness cooling winds.

Our walk showcases the exquisite craftsmanship of Kor ula's renowned stonemasons, whose work adorns buildings worldwide, with a visit to the Bishop's Palace to uncover its hidden treasures, including sketches and drawings attributed to Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Raphael, Tiepolo, and others. We will also visit the charming Church of All Saints, home to a remarkable collection of Byzantine icons. Afterwards, return to the ship for lunch, with views of the island and the Croatian coastline, or stay on the island for a further stroll, climb the Revelin Tower for a bird's-eye view, or relax at one of the many waterfront cafes.

Option 2 - Morning experience: Rural Kor ula and Boutique Wine Tasting

Start your tour with a scenic drive through Kor ula's beautiful Mediterranean landscape. Kor ula Island is famous for its white wines, making this tour perfect for wine lovers seeking an authentic local experience. After a short drive, you will reach Tasovac Winery, an award-winning, family-owned estate offering a traditional coastal atmosphere and a tasting of their exquisite wines.

Our scenic drive passes through small villages and vineyards, until we arrive at Toreta Winery, located in the heart of Kor ula Island. Kor ula is renowned for its indigenous grapes, Grk and Pošip. The village of Lumbarda is famous for its Grk wines, while the island's interior villages are known for their Pošip wines, often compared to sauvignon blanc and chardonnay. Toreta Winery, a small boutique estate, is celebrated for its exceptional wines, liqueurs and olive oil. Here, you can also see old agricultural tools used for generations. After tasting, we return to Kor ula town.

Option 3 - Morning experience: A Taste of Kor ula

Our morning starts with a short walking tour of Kor ula town, before we head out of town. OPG Komparak greets visitors with a 300-year-old row of cypress pines shadowing a private entrance. This small distillery began production in the winter of 2020 amid a honey deficit. Beekeeper Vlaho Komparak,



inspired by the abundance of bitter oranges in Kor ula gardens, created Trut gin. Honey is added before distillation to unify the aroma, and each bottle is dipped in beeswax. The first flavour, 'Signature', won silver at the Berlin International Spirits Awards, and since then, this sweet gin has become a Kor ula success story. We enjoy the Honey & Gin Experience at this organic farm, featuring an active beehive, gin distillery and olive oil production. We combine a tour of the farm with a tasting of honey, olive oil, marmalade, and the award-winning Trut gin.

Day 5 Dubrovnik (Tender Port: Dubrovnik)

In the medieval walled city of Dubrovnik, our selection of 'Your Choice' experiences offer an opportunity to view the city from ground level on a walking tour, or above from its city walls. Your afternoon is free should you wish to return to explore the city independently or linger in town before catching our tender back to the ship. We sail south to Montenegro in the early evening.

This stunning walled city boasts a history spanning over a millennium. Founded in the 7th century, Dubrovnik thrived as the Republic of Ragusa, a prominent maritime power. Its strategic location encouraged trade across the Mediterranean, with the associated wealth shaping its unique blend of architecture and culture. Throughout its history, Dubrovnik faced periods of prosperity and challenges, including conflicts with rival states and invasions. The city's formidable defensive walls, begun in the 9th century and expanded in the 14th and 15th centuries, symbolise its strategic significance. In modern times, Dubrovnik gained global recognition as a filming location for motion pictures such as Game of Thrones, where its ancient walls and historic streets provided the backdrop for King's Landing. Today, Dubrovnik's well-preserved medieval architecture, including churches, monasteries, and palaces, continues to attract visitors seeking to explore its rich heritage and cinematic allure along the scenic Adriatic coast.

Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences.

Option 1 - Morning experience: Walking Dubrovnik

Begin your day with a leisurely walking tour through the enchanting streets of Dubrovnik's Old Town, where centuries of history whisper from every stone. Led by a knowledgeable local guide, you'll uncover tales of the city's vibrant past and present, without the steep climbs or strenuous pace.

Rather than scaling the city walls, you'll meander through the charming lanes and lively squares, pausing at iconic landmarks like the grand Pile Gate, built in 1537, and watched over by a statue of St. Blaise, Dubrovnik's beloved patron saint. Wander down the bustling Stradun, the city's main promenade, lined with elegant shops, cozy cafes, and architectural gems. Along the way, marvel at Onofrio's Fountain, the serene Franciscan Monastery, home to Europe's oldest pharmacy, and the stately Rector's Palace, a masterpiece of Gothic-Renaissance design. This tour is perfect for those who want to soak in the soul of Dubrovnik at a relaxed, unhurried pace.

Option 2 - Morning experience: Walking Dubrovnik and its City Walls

Experience the essence of Dubrovnik with a locally guided walking tour including walking it city walls. Stretching over one



mile in length and rising 24 metres (80 feet) high, these walls offer panoramic views of the Adriatic Sea and the terracotta rooftops below. From the northern Min eta Tower to Fort Bokar at the southwestern corner, and ending at Fort St. John by the Old Harbour, the walls provide insights into Dubrovnik's resilience, contrasting with remnants of shelling damage from the 1990's conflict. Explore forts and towers, each steeped in history, while glimpsing into hidden gardens and courtyards along the residential fringes. A walking tour of Dubrovnik's Old Town and city walls promises an unforgettable journey through time.

Day 6 Kotor, Montenegro (Port: Kotor)

Early morning we enter the fjord system leading us to the bayside city of Kotor, where we tender ashore to enjoy our 'Your Choice' experiences. Afterwards, you can return to the ship for lunch or stay in town to explore more at your own pace, with an early evening departure for Albania.

Montenegro's Bay of Kotor boasts stunning steep cliffs descending to a narrow inlet of the Adriatic Sea. Unlike true fjords shaped by glaciers, this bay is a ria, formed when rising sea levels submerged an ancient river valley. Characterised by its branching outline and large estuary, a ria like the Bay of Kotor offers exceptional natural harbour conditions. The bay's unique bay-within-a-bay configuration, featuring the 300-metre-wide (984 feet) Verige Strait, adds to its striking beauty.

The tiny Balkan country of Montenegro, famed for its rugged mountains and stunning Adriatic coastline, is home to one of the region's most enchanting destinations: Kotor. This historical town is packed with medieval charm. Surrounded by towering limestone cliffs and clear waters, the bay itself is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The people of Kotor and Montenegro are known for their warm hospitality and deep connection to their land and traditions. Montenegrins take considerable pride in their history and cultural heritage, which is reflected in their vibrant festivals, local cuisine, and traditional music. The city's history, coupled with the stunning landscapes of the fjord and the genuine warmth of its people, makes Kotor a highlight of any voyage.

Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences.

Option 1 - Morning experience: Vistas of Kotor

Our morning begins with a guided walking tour through the charming streets of Kotor's Old Town, where we pass endless medieval architecture and delve into 2,500 years of history. We visit the iconic St. Tryphon Cathedral, a masterpiece that dates to the 12th century, and hear tales of the city's past. After soaking in Kotor's enchanting atmosphere, we drive to the base of the cable-car station and embark on a 10-minute scenic cable-car ride, which offers the stunning views of Boka Bay. Ascending the summit of Lov en Mountain, be prepared to be captivated by sweeping views of Kotor, the Bay of Kotor, and the surrounding landscapes.

Option 2 - Morning experience: A Taste of Kotor

Experience Kotor with an added touch of local flair on a locally guided wine and food tour. This journey immerses you in Montenegro's culinary traditions, beginning with home-cooked

local specialties made with passion and dedication. Delve into the town's history on a walking tour before exploring the bustling marketplace, the heart of Kotor, where we sample locally cured smoked ham, cheese, and olives.

Upon arriving at one of the city's cobblestoned squares we sample olive oil, homemade spreads, and freshly baked bread. Savour local favourites like black risotto and mussels in "buzara" sauce, all of which connect you to the rich culinary heritage of the coastal Balkan region. To complete our morning, choose to enjoy a Montenegrin wine, beer, or grappa, for a taste of Kotor's delicious local flair.

Option 3 - Morning experience: Boka Bays' Waterfront Wonders

Experience the beauty of Boka Bay on a scenic speedboat cruise, when we visit waterfront villages, church studded islands and some rather unique tunnels. Begin your journey at Our Lady of the Rocks, a solo Baroque church sitting on a artificial islet in the Bay of Kotor. Here, you will find an original church built in 1452, adorned with 68 magnificent paintings by Tripo Kokolja. Our cruise continues to Perast, a charming baroque village known for its rich maritime heritage. Stroll its cobblestone streets, where historical stone houses reflect the town's prosperous past. The centrepiece is the grand Cathedral of St. Nicholas, a striking 18th-century structure that dominates its famous skyline.

From Perast, our speedboat takes us to the intriguing Submarine Tunnels constructed by the Yugoslav Army, cleverly camouflaged with fake rocks to remain hidden from view, before we journey to Pr anj, a picturesque seaside town celebrated for its 17th- and 18th-century stone villas, remnants of its prosperous history as an administrative centre of the Venetian Republic. Finally, we visit the Church of St. Nicholas and the Franciscan Monastery at the foot of Mount Vrmac, where we learn about the Franciscan monks and the town's notable explorer, Ivan Visin, the first Croat to circumnavigate the globe.

Day 7 Durrës, Albania (Port: Durrës)

Sailing south, we leave Montenegro and enter the former communist nation of Albania. Located in the south of the Balkan Peninsula, it boasts a rich history and a burgeoning modern persona. From ancient Illyrian settlements to Roman and Ottoman rule, Albania's past is reflected in its historical sites, which are among the most notable in Europe. After decades of communist rule, Albania embraced democracy in the early 1990s but faced challenges with political instability and corruption. Today, the nation is undergoing a transformation, embracing democracy and economic reforms after years of isolation. Efforts to strengthen institutions and align with European Union standards are ongoing, offering travellers the opportunity to visit this fascinating country without the crowds. With a stunning coastline along the Adriatic and Ionian Seas, rugged mountains, and UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Albania sits at the crossroads of tourism. Visiting it now allows us to experience its unspoiled beauty and genuine hospitality before it gains wider touristic recognition.

Sitting with pride on Albania's northern coast, Durres stands as a testament to its millennia-old history. Originally founded as Epidamnos by the Ancient Greeks in 627 BCE, Durres boasts a rich mix of Greek, Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman influences. Its imposing Roman amphitheatre, dating back to the 2nd

century AD, is among the largest in the Balkans and can hold up to 20,000 spectators. Another highlight is the iconic Venetian Tower, built in the 15th century, which punctuates its skyline and reflects its diverse architectural heritage. Durres was also a vital hub during the Byzantine period, serving as a key defensive and commercial centre. The city's walls, some of which still stand today, were strengthened under Byzantine Emperor Anastasius I, who was born in Durres. Today, Durres thrives as a bustling port city. It is Albania's primary seaport, handling over 90 per cent of the country's maritime trade. With sandy beaches, lively promenades and a bustling market scene, Durres offers residents and visitors alike a blend of ancient charm and modern convenience.

Our 'Your Choice' experiences offer a chance to immerse ourselves in the ancient, medieval or recent past of this fascinating nation.

Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences.

Option 1 - Morning experience: Tirana's Paranoid Past

Albania's capital city has emerged anew from nearly 50 years of communist rule, revealing a vibrant metamorphosis marked by resilience. It is astonishing to imagine that Tirana's colourful buildings, bustling cafes and green parklands were once forbidden under a tyrannical regime. This morning, our locally guided tour centres around this remarkable transformation, focusing particularly on the city's Cold War past.

Choose to enjoy free time to explore Tirana further at your own pace or visit an unusual piece of Albania's past - Bunk'Art 2. This re-imagined communist-era nuclear bunker embodies the city's cultural revival and remembrance of its solemn past. Unveiled to the public in 2015, this 1000 m² underground space was secretly built beneath the Ministry of Internal Affairs from 1981-1986\. Known as 'Objekti Shtylla' (Object Pole), it was part of Enver Hoxha's extensive bunker project, symbolising his regime's isolationist policies. During his 41-year presidency, Hoxha oversaw the construction of over 700,000 bunkers throughout Albania as a defence strategy against perceived threats.

Option 2 - Full day experience: Kruja Castle and Bazaar

Our day takes us to Kruja, around 45 minutes inland from Durres. This captivating city perched atop a hill with sweeping views 600 metres (1,969 feet) above sea level, gifts us an insight into the traditional Albanian lifestyle. A highlight is time spent in the vibrant atmosphere of the city's bustling bazaar - a single street adorned with craft and artisan shops, cafes and quaint antique stores. Choose to tour linger in the market or join your guide for a tour of Kruja Castle. Kruja Castle was the citadel of national hero Gjergj Kastriot (Skanderbeg), renowned for his successful resistance against Ottoman invaders during the 15th century. Skanderbeg himself claimed that he had received a vision of St. George handing him a flaming sword to 'destroy the enemy'. We wrap up our experience with a traditional lunch, savouring Albanian fare before heading back to Durres.

Day 8 Sarandë (Port: Sarandë)

Our second Albanian port offers us an opportunity to view one of Albania's World Heritage-listed sites or spend time in one of the



hilltop villages scattered in the city's hinterland.

Once an ancient Greek and Roman port known as Onchesmos, Sarande has witnessed centuries of civilisations, evident in its archaeological sites like the ancient city of Butrint, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Butrint's history spans Greek, Roman, Byzantine and Venetian periods, making it a treasure trove of historical artefacts and architecture. During World War II, Sarande was occupied by Italian and German forces, and the remnants of military bunkers from the communist era still dot the landscape, offering a glimpse into the more recent past.

Today, Sarande is a bustling holiday destination, renowned for its popular beaches. The city's transformation in recent years reflects Albania's progress, with modern amenities and a growing tourism industry. Sarande's population, predominantly Muslim with a significant Christian minority, coexist harmoniously, contributing to the city's welcoming atmosphere and cultural diversity.

Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences.

Option 1 - Morning experience: The UNESCO Site of Butrint

Set in a marshy landscape between Lake Butrint and the sea, this UNESCO World Heritage Site is an archaeologist's favourite. Once a flourishing ancient Greek and, later, Roman city, Butrint has a rich history dating back to the 8th century BC. Initially settled by the Greeks, it later became a Roman colony in the 1st century BC and thrived, attracting various civilisations, including the Byzantines, Venetians and Ottomans, each leaving their mark on the city's architecture and culture. Key areas of the excavation include the Roman Forum, the sprawling Triconch Palace, a late-antiquity baptistery, a Roman villa, and a late-antiquity church on the shore of Lake Butrint at Diaporit. A highlight of our visit is the ancient theatre, which dates to the 3rd century BC. Originally built by the Greeks and later expanded by the Romans, the theatre could seat up to 2,500 spectators and was a central part of Butrint's cultural and social life. Standing among its well-preserved structure, it is easy to imagine the city's inhabitants enjoying a performance. A visit to Butrint offers the opportunity to explore a lesser-visited site with less rush and more understanding of Albania's past. This immersive experience allows us to appreciate the layers of history and the diverse cultures that have shaped this remarkable location.

Option 2 - Full-day option: Gjirokaster, the 'City of Stone'

Gjirokaster sits in the Drino River valley between the Gjere mountains and the Lunxheri hills, around a 1.5-hour drive inland from Sarande. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is renowned for its well-preserved Ottoman architecture and historical significance. Visiting Gjirokaster offers a glimpse into Albania's cultural past, as we begin our journey at Gjirokaster Castle, perched high above the town. After exploring the castle's museum and hearing about its time as a fortress and prison, wander through the old town bazaar, with its charming cobblestone streets lined with traditional Ottoman-era houses and shops selling local crafts. Enjoy lunch at a traditional restaurant, savouring authentic Albanian fare such as byrek, the Balkans' popular filo pies, and tave kosi, Albania's national dish of lamb and rice. This visit provides a perfect blend of historical



exploration and cultural immersion, making for an unforgettable experience in the 'City of Stone'.

Day 9 Corfu, Greece (Port: Corfu)

We spend the morning on the Greek island of Corfu before sailing in the early afternoon to the mainland of Greece.

Located in the Ionian Sea, the island of Corfu is a captivating fusion of past dynasties, including the Venetians and the British, with notable ties to Queen Elizabeth II consort, Prince Philip, who was born on Corfu. Its rich history is evident in its diverse architectural styles, Byzantine churches, Venetian fortresses, and British colonial buildings. Corfu's Old Town stands as a testament to its cultural heritage, enclosed by Venetian fortifications. Wandering through its narrow-cobbled streets reveals elegant mansions, Byzantine churches and charming squares. Venetian influences adorn the architecture, with arched colonnades, grand palaces, and picturesque bell towers.

A leisurely stroll along the iconic Liston Promenade, lined with cafes and boutiques, offers views of the surrounding sea and distant mountains. Every street seems to lead to a quintessential British icon: a cricket pitch. Beyond the Old Town, Corfu unveils stunning beaches, verdant hillsides, and picturesque villages nestled in the countryside.

Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences.

Option 1 - Morning experience: Achilleion Palace

Departing from the port of Corfu, we will head to the picturesque village of Gastouri to visit the romantic Achilleion Palace. Built for the famed Empress Sissi of Austria, renowned for her beauty and tragic death, the palace was inspired by her love for Greek mythology. Surrounded by classical Greek statues, the palace is a monument to platonic romanticism and escapism, aptly named after Achilles. You will have time to explore the manicured gardens, with its exotic imported plants from around the empire and the dramatic statue of the Dying Achilles, while enjoying extensive views of the Ionian Sea.

Option 2 - Morning experience: Walking tour of UNESCO World Heritage Site, Old Corfu Town

Explore Corfu's Old Town on a locally guided introductory walking tour. The Old Town is an icon of the island, full of markets and shops. Wander its narrow cobblestone streets lined with Venetian-style buildings, revealing centuries of history. Discover iconic landmarks like the Liston Promenade and the grand Old Fortress, with expansive views of the Ionian Sea. Immerse yourself in the charm of Spianada Square, Greece's largest square, surrounded by elegant cafes and historic architecture. Encounter Byzantine churches adorned with frescoes, vibrant markets brimming with local crafts, and hidden tavernas offering authentic Greek cuisine. Let the stories of past rulers, Venetian rule, and British influence unfold as you delve into the rich history of this UNESCO World Heritage Site, before enjoying free time to wander the popular shops stacked full of souvenirs, leather goods and Greek specialities.

Day 10 Delphi & the Corinth Canal (Port: Itea)

Our morning affords us a glimpse into the life of the early Greeks, with a visit to the Oracle and former city of Delphi. Our



local guides tell tales of pilgrimage, sacrifice and early faiths as we step into the world of Ancient Greece.

Revered throughout antiquity as a sacred site where pilgrims could glimpse the future, the Oracle of Delphi cast cryptic prophecies for over a millennium. Dubbed the 'navel of the world' for its pivotal position in the Greek realm, Delphi drew pilgrims from all sectors of society, shaping critical decisions, from civic politics to personal destinies. Perched dramatically on the slopes of Mount Parnassus, the Oracle was esteemed as a direct conduit to the divine realm of Apollo - the sun god. Revered for his beauty and creative prowess, Apollo symbolised order and harmony. As a result, Delphi became integral to Greek identity, reflecting its religious, cultural, and political life. It was a unifying site where people from various city-states gathered, fostering a sense of shared Hellenic heritage.

Our journey leads us to the very site of the Oracle, alongside the opulent Treasury of the Athenians - a testament to offerings made. We pause at the ancient theatre, host to the prestigious Pythian Games, and the Castalian Spring, where pilgrims purified themselves before seeking counsel.

Today, Delphi stands as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, its influence enduring through the annals of literature, history, and art. It remains a profound emblem of ancient wisdom and cultural legacy, cherished by Greece as a bridge to its storied past.

Returning to the ship, we have lunch, and time to relax. Enjoy a swim in the pool, or a cool drink up on deck, as we sail towards one of the world's engineering wonders. In the early evening, we navigate the Corinth Canal. This narrow waterway connects the Gulf of Corinth with the Saronic Gulf in the Aegean Sea, cutting through the Isthmus of Corinth and saving vessels a significant 700-kilometre journey around the Peloponnese peninsula. Stretching 6.5 kilometres and 21 metres wide at its base (4 miles long, 70 feet wide), the Corinth Canal is one of the narrowest lock-free canals in the world. Its towering limestone walls, reaching heights of up to 79 metres (259 feet), create a dramatic passage for vessels, which almost touch its sides as they sail its path.

The concept of cutting a canal through the isthmus dates to ancient times, with plans proposed by Periander of Corinth in the 7th century BC. Construction finally began under Roman Emperor Nero, only to halt upon his death. It was not until 1893 the canal was finally completed. Its construction was a monumental effort, involving the excavation of millions of cubic metres of earth and rock, all dug at sea level. It stands as a remarkable achievement in engineering and continues to be a key route for maritime traffic, enhancing Greece's role as a central hub in the Mediterranean.

Exiting the canal, we sail overnight to waterfront town of Nafplion on the Peloponnese Peninsula.

Day 11 Nafplion (Port: Nafplion)

Sitting on the northeast coast of the Peloponnese peninsula, this historical town overlooks the Argolic Gulf, framed by surrounding mountains. Serving as the first capital of independent Greece, between 1833 and 1834, Nafplion boasts a wealth of historical landmarks that bear witness to its illustrious past. Serving as the gateway to major UNESCO World



Heritage Sites Epidaurus and Mycenae, Nafplion offers visitors a memorable day out.

Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences.

Option 1 - Morning experience: Nafplion Walking Tour with Ouzo Factory Tour and Tasting

Our locally guided walking tour begins as soon as we disembark at the old port, where we begin our exploration of the old town, with its narrow cobblestone streets, Venetian mansions, and neoclassical buildings, invites visitors to step back in time and immerse themselves in centuries of Greek history and culture. No visit to the Peloponnese is complete without a taste of Greece's most popular brew. Karonis Distilleries, a family-run business in Nafplion, has been crafting ouzo, tsipouro, and masticha for 145 years. Ouzo, a beloved Greek spirit, is an integral part of Greek culture and social life. It is often enjoyed at gatherings and celebrations, symbolising Greek hospitality and tradition. Visitors can also sample the Karonis's distinguished cherry liqueur, made from Arcadian cherries. Both drinks, shared with friends and family, highlight the rich flavours and heritage of Greece, making a visit to Karonis Distilleries a delightful and educational experience.

Option 2 - Morning experience: UNESCO World Heritage Site of Mycenae

This morning, we journey through time and explore the remains of the ancient city of Mycenae, which was a major centre of Greek civilisation from 1600 BC to 1100 BC and one of the most important cities of Ancient Greece.

Our local expert guides us through time, bringing daily life in this ancient city alive among its relics and ruins.

This sprawling UNESCO World Heritage Site brings the Bronze Age city of Mycenae to life, as our curiosity travels beyond archaeology, fuelling our fascination for the heroic age of Greek mythology. Renowned for its impressive fortifications, monolithic architecture, and rich archaeological finds, Mycenae has played a crucial role in shaping ancient Greek history and mythology. Ruled by legendary figures such as King Agamemnon, who according to myth led the Greeks in the Trojan War and was later murdered upon his return to Mycenae, the city's story is central to Homer's epic poems, the 'Iliad' and the 'Odyssey'.

Archaeological excavations at Mycenae have unearthed a wealth of artefacts, including intricately decorated pottery, gold jewellery, and the famous 'Mask of Agamemnon', a gold funeral mask discovered in a royal tomb. These discoveries provide insights into the wealth, artistry, and sophistication of the Mycenaean civilisation. The site's significance extends beyond archaeology, as it continues to inspire artists, writers and scholars, fuelling fascination with the heroic age of Greek mythology and the legacy of ancient civilisation.

Option 3 - Morning experience: UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Sanctuary of Askl pios and Epidaurus

This morning, we tour one of Greece's most revered sites: the world-famous Ancient Theatre of Epidaurus. Epidaurus was a significant centre of healing in the ancient world and remains a



powerful symbol of humanity's quest for health and self-preservation. The staff of Askl pios, entwined by a snake, is still recognised today as a symbol of the medical profession.

Legend names Epidaurus as the birthplace of Apollo's son, Askl pios--the god of medicine. Pilgrims seeking cures journeyed here, especially to the temple of Askl pios, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Treatments blended religious rites with practical medicine, from herbal remedies to therapeutic snake licks. The complex included a hospital, guest house, mineral springs, and gymnasium. The remarkably well-preserved Ancient Theatre of Epidaurus from the 4th-century, could seat around 14,000 spectators. Dramatic performances were part of healing rituals, as the Greeks believed in the therapeutic power of the arts. Today, Epidaurus remains influential in medicine and culture, hosting performances during the annual festival and inspiring modern holistic healing.

Our final evening onboard is spent as a fond farewell to Douglas Mawson, her crew and Aurora Expeditions team as we sail the Aegean to Greece's capital, Athens.

Day 12 Disembark Athens (Port: Piraeus)

After breakfast, disembark at the port of Piraeus and join a 'Your Choice' Athen's experience, with time to enjoy a free afternoon in Athens, before transferring to our overnight hotel.

With a rich recorded history spanning 3,500 years, Athens is a city brimming with stories. Widely hailed as the 'cradle of civilisation' and revered as the birthplace of democracy, philosophy and theatre, Athens seamlessly merges its illustrious past with its vibrant present. This bustling metropolis, home to three million inhabitants, is adorned with a wealth of ancient sites that punctuate its landscape like temples, iconic columns and former city centres. Athens' influence in antiquity transcended its borders, ushering in a Golden Age characterised by political discussion, education and philosophy, hosting luminaries such as Socrates, Plato and Aristotle. The democratic principles forged in Athens laid the groundwork for modern governance systems worldwide.

Yet, Athens is more than just a relic of ancient history. As a historical seat of power, it has weathered waves of invasions, shaping its contemporary identity with a diverse fusion of architectural styles, culinary delights and cultural traditions. Whether you are wandering amid ancient ruins or indulging in the flavours of modern Greek cuisine, Athens offers a captivating journey through the ages, beckoning travellers from across the globe to explore its timeless allure.

Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences.

Option 1 - Morning experience: Highlights of Athens

This panoramic tour offers a captivating introduction to the ancient city, with visits to its most iconic landmarks.

Begin at the Greek Parliament in Syntagma Square, once a royal palace, where the Evzones, dressed in traditional uniforms, stand guard in a solemn ceremonial display. Next, enjoy a photo stop at the historic Panathenaic Stadium, the site of the first modern Olympic Games in 1896, where the Olympic spirit was reborn. Continuing the Olympic theme, head to the Temple of



Zeus, a colossal, ruined sanctuary dedicated to the king of the Olympian gods. Then, take in sweeping views of the Acropolis, the ancient citadel perched high above Athens, home to legendary temples like the Parthenon, built in honour of the city's patron goddess, Athena. On a facing hilltop lies the Agora, the bustling heart of ancient Athenian life, a vibrant marketplace and political centre where citizens once gathered to shop, debate, and shape the course of democracy.

Option 2 - Morning experience: A Taste of Athens

For foodie fans and return travellers to Athens, this is an ideal outing. Stroll through Plaka, the charming 'old quarter' of Athens nestled at the base of the Acropolis. Admire its eclectic neoclassical architecture, picturesque alleys, and inviting tavernas. We pause at a colourful local cafe to indulge in Greek delicacies such as olives, aromatic cheeses and cured meats, and treat ourselves to a traditional Greek coffee, accompanied, perhaps, by a sweet delight like baklava, a favourite among Greeks for its rich layers of pastry, nuts and honey. Our morning offers a taste of this captivating city, where the people's passion for food rivals their deep devotion to their country.

Option 3 - Morning experience: The Acropolis

Perched high above the city, the Acropolis is not only an architectural marvel, but also a symbol of the birthplace of democracy. This ancient citadel stands as a testament to the enduring legacy of Greek culture and ideals, representing advancements in art, architecture and political thought that originated in Athens. Feel the essence of civic pride and religious devotion in ancient Greek society, at the city's centre for political and cultural life. The Parthenon exemplifies the height of classical Greek architecture, adorned with Doric columns and intricate sculptures. Built under the leadership of Pericles, the Parthenon symbolised the city's wealth and power, with friezes and statues depicting various mythological scenes.

After touring the Acropolis, take a short walk to the Acropolis Museum. This modern museum houses over 3,000 artefacts from the Athenian Acropolis, offering unique insights into ancient Greek life and including an archaeological excavation beneath it. (Please note: Entrance time to the Acropolis is a local government stipulated time slot. The sequence of the above itinerary may change once the specific time slot is allocated.)

Rejoin the coach for a short drive or take a stroll to the city's popular Plaka precinct nearby. A series of streets and laneways filled with restaurants, cafes and shops, it is the perfect place to grab a bite to eat or shop for gifts to take home. Mid-afternoon, we transfer to our hotel.

Accommodation: Athens Hotel

Meals: Breakfast

Day 13 Athens

Enjoy a leisurely day in Athens on your Athens hop-on-hop-off bus. Revisit your favourite sites, relax by the hotel's pool, or discover hidden treasures on your own exploration. This convenient pass makes it easy to navigate the city, while the warm Greek hospitality ensures you are never far from helpful advice on how to make the most of your visit.



This evening, we celebrate the end of our journey with a Farewell Reception.

Accommodation: Athens Hotel

Meals: Breakfast, Farewell Reception (drinks and canapes)

Day 14 Depart Athens

After breakfast, check-out of your hotel and transfer to the airport for your onward flight.

Meals: Breakfast

Please Note:

Itineraries are subject to change.



YOUR SHIP: DOUGLAS MAWSON

YOUR SHIP: **Douglas Mawson**

VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

Douglas Mawson was launched in 2025. Named after the legendary Australian geologist and explorer, this new small ship embodies Mawson's pioneering spirit and is designed for global discovery. Featuring the revolutionary Ulstein X-BOW® and purpose-built with enhanced sustainability features, it takes a maximum 154 adventurers to the world's wildest places in smooth, quiet comfort. It boasts our most extensive range of cabins yet, including a range of single cabins. The Douglas Mawson features a host of amenities to help you connect with like-minded travellers and elevate your time onboard this floating base camp for adventure. After a long day of exploring, head to the back deck to swim in the heated outdoor swimming pool, find a sun bed to read on, or soak in one of two Jacuzzis. Work up a sweat in the gym before unwinding in the sauna, resolve to learn something new in the Citizen Science Centre, then enjoy a delicious meal with new and old friends in one of two restaurants. Or, with multiple observation areas throughout the ship, simply relax in comfort while you keep watch for wildlife or incredible landscapes unfold before you. While enjoying the luxurious amenities onboard, you can rest assured that the aim is to get you off the ship to explore the natural environment as much as possible to enjoy some unique activities remains unchanged. Newest Ulstein X-BOW ® The Douglas Mawson features the newest streamlined Ulstein X-BOW®, designed for global discovery. The revolutionary design cuts through the swell, offering unrivalled stability on ocean crossings and helping to reduce fuel consumption. It's just one of the many sustainability features that helps make travel more responsible. Heated Pool, Jacuzzis & Sauna In between landings, enjoy access to the onboard gym or unwind in the sauna. Or head to the back deck to swim in the heated outdoor pool, enjoy a drink at the pool bar, or soak in one of two Jacuzzis, watching the world go by. Leading Technology The Douglas Mawson is at the cutting edge of nautical technology, fitted with industry-leading technology including world-class return-to-port equipment. The ship also features a medical clinic designed for use in remote areas. Built for Adventure The Douglas Mawson features Zodiac access points and an activities platform, making boarding the Zodiacs as quick, efficient and safe as possible, minimising wait times and getting you closer to the action for longer. In our mudroom you will have access to lockers to store gear & boots and rapid drying areas for clothing. More Cabin Choices The Douglas Mawson features 11 different types of cabins, including a range of spacious single berth cabins - all adorned with elegant Nordic interior design features. Multiple Observation Areas As you explore the ship you will find indoor lounge areas with floor-to ceiling windows, and multiple open decks with expansive 270-360 degree views. The Glass Atrium Lounge inside the bow is a fantastic place to sit and watch for wildlife - with a drink in hand. There is no shortage of



spaces to take in the majesty of the incredible world outside! Lecture Theatre On all expeditions you will meet naturalists and local specialists, who offer presentations on their area of expertise to enhance your appreciation of the destination you are exploring. Join the team in the lecture theatre for presentations covering a broad range of topics to suit every interest, from history and culture to biology and climate change. Regardless of the topic, they all have one thing in common: they all aim to engage, educate, entertain and turn you into an ambassador for the planet. Citizen Science Center & Lounge Learn more about the world and the unique destinations Aurora visits by visiting the onboard naturalist and Expedition Team in the world-class Citizen Science Center. You will be rewarded for your thirst for knowledge with one of the best views on the ship. Library With floor-to-ceiling windows, the library is a peaceful sanctuary where you can find non-fiction books to read up on the day's destinations, use a public laptop to organise your photos or play board games with newfound friends. Choose from our range of informative non-fiction titles, wildlife guidebooks, travel journals, novels and a selection of children's books and board games. Wildlife guides, books and binoculars can also be found on the observation lounge on Deck 7. Mudroom No need to take your wet expedition gear back to your cabin to dry. Keep your cabin warm and cosy by leaving your outer jackets and pants in the mudroom. The mudroom is your launchpad for all shore excursions and activities. Here, you will have access to a locker when you can hang your gear up to dry, and store your boots between excursions. Swimming Pool & Jacuzzis There are two Jacuzzis on the top outside deck which offer amazing views of the world outside, a heated outdoor pool surrounded by sun beds you can relax on after a long day of exploring, and a pool bar. Gym & Sauna During your voyage, enjoy complimentary access to the gym or visit our sauna, which we highly recommend after the Polar Plunge! Restaurants One of the most important parts of any expedition is the food! Whatever adventures the day holds, you will be fuelled-up with hearty meals and delicious morning/afternoon teas cooked by our onboard chefs. Meals are a great time to soak up the expedition camaraderie in our open seating dining area. Share stories with your fellow travellers and ask our expedition team questions that may have come up during the day. Tea, coffee and snacks are available 24 hours a day, and our chefs offer different menu options and courses for each meal. Enjoy the range of house wine, beers and soft drinks included with dinner after a long day in the wild. We also invite you to join your captain and expedition team for informal Captain's Farewell drinks, with complimentary beverages and cocktail appetisers, followed by a 3 course meal. Bars & Lounges Communal meeting areas have always played a major role in fostering the warm camaraderie on board our ships. They are the heart of the expedition, where people meet to share tales from the day, swap photos, keep an eye out for wildlife and watch the sun go down. The bars and lounges on board are refined yet inviting places to gather, with floor-to-ceiling windows offering stunning views, and of course friendly bartenders to shoot the





breeze with.

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INSIDE YOUR SHIP

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Aurora Stateroom Superior Single



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Balcony Stateroom Category A



Balcony Stateroom Category B



Balcony Stateroom Category C



Balcony Stateroom Superior



Captain's Suite



Junior Suite





PRICING

02-Sep-2027 to 15-Sep-2027

Aurora Stateroom Superior	£12348 GBP pp
Balcony Stateroom Superior	£15598 GBP pp
Junior Suite	£18648 GBP pp
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