

From the canals of Venice to The city of gods

From **27/05/2022**
to **03/06/2022**

Ship: **LE LYRIAL**

From **Venice**
to **Athens**



Set sail to discover the cultural and artistic jewels of the **Ionian, Adriatic** and the **Aegean Seas** with **PONANT**. During this **8-day cruise**, *Le Lyrial* will take you to Italy, Croatia, Montenegro and Greece.

Your voyage will begin in Italy with an embarkation in **Venice**. An opportunity to discover or rediscover the sublime city of the Doges, with its many canals, its vaporetti and its mythical gondolas before heading to Croatia and the picturesque port of **Hvar**, you will continue to sail along the Dalmatian coastlines to **Dubrovnik**. Sitting high on a rocky outcrop, its old town, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, watches the world go by.

Le Lyrial will reach Montenegro after sailing in the **Bay of Kotor**, which is strangely reminiscent of Norwegian fjords. The city of Kotor nestles in a bay surrounded by wooded mountains. Its old town is listed as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** due to its medieval architecture.

Next **Corfu**, the most famous **Ionian island**, will reveal the hidden treasures of its Greco-Byzantine and Venetian architectural heritage. Do not miss the chance to visit the **Achilleion**, the luxurious neoclassical palace built for the **Empress Sissi**.

Your ship will call at **Gythio**, the main port of ancient Sparta where you will discover the **Byzantine city of Mystras**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, before sailing for **Nafplion**, an opportunity to visit the superb Ancient Theatre of Epidauros, also listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Your cruise will end in **Athens**, the mythical city dominated by the **Acropolis** and its monuments that form **the most extraordinary architectural and artistic collection bequeathed by Ancient Greece** to the rest of the world.



The information in this document is valid as of 06/07/2022

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

VENICE

Embarkation 27/05/2022 from 16:00 to 17:00

Departure 27/05/2022 at 18:00

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.

HVAR

Arrival 28/05/2022 midday

Departure 28/05/2022 late evening

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.

DUBROVNIK

Arrival 29/05/2022 early morning

Departure 29/05/2022 late evening

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.

KOTOR

Arrival 30/05/2022 early morning

Departure 30/05/2022 midday

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.

CORFU

Arrival 31/05/2022 early morning

Departure 31/05/2022 midday

Named after the island, Corfu is the most famous city in the Ionian islands. Protected by citadel fortifications, its old city, designated UNESCO World Heritage, displays unusual **Greco-Byzantine and Venetian architecture**. Above the water stands Saint George's church, looking uncannily like a classical temple. The picturesque **Pontikonisi**, a stone's throw from the southern point of the town, is the legendary island where Odysseus landed.

GYTHIO

Arrival 01/06/2022 midday

Departure 01/06/2022 evening

Located in the south of the **Peloponnese**, on the Mani Peninsula, Gytheio was the main port and naval base of ancient Sparta, located around fifty kilometres inland. In Roman times, the port experienced significant expansion thanks to trading in imperial dye; in fact, the region had an abundance of murex, the rock snails from which this dye, loved by the Romans, was extracted. The town is nestled against Mount Koumaros and dominated by a citadel. Take a stroll and fall under the charm of the calm that reigns over the stairways bordered by small neoclassic houses with steps overrun with wild flowers.

NAFPLION

Arrival 02/06/2022 early morning

Departure 02/06/2022 evening

The engaging town of Nafplion is staggered up green hillsides of the Argolic Gulf, to the east of the Peloponnese. Do not be surprised by its extremely varied cultural heritage. Some of the must-see visits are the ancient agora on the plateau of Akronafplia, Italianate arcades in **Syntagma square** as well as the baroque fortress of **Palamidi** on a hillside of the same name. At the top of the hill, views of the gulf and the surrounding mountains are simply awesome. If you want to chill out by the water's edge, walk along the **Arvanitia promenade** to a beautiful creek in the shade of cedars and cypresses.

ATHENS

Arrival 03/06/2022 early morning

Disembarkation 03/06/2022 at 06:00

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.