

Antique wonders of the Aegean

From **24/07/2023**
to **04/08/2023**

Ship: **LE LYRIAL**

From **Istanbul**
to **Istanbul**



Kid's Club in partnership with MAUD FONTENOY FOUNDATION.

Departing from **Istanbul**, **PONANT** brings you an itinerary along the coastlines in the **Aegean Sea**, to discover outstanding natural and historical sites. During this **12-day cruise**, *Le Bougainville* invites you to a sensorial and cultural journey to the heart of the ancient treasures of Turkey and Greece.

Your journey will begin with a call at **Bozcaada**, a peaceful haven renowned since Antiquity for the produce of its vineyards. With its charming, cobbled streets, the island reveals a fine combination of Greek and Turkish influences and offers many opportunities to swim in the crystal-clear waters of the Aegean Sea.

You will continue your tour of the Turkish shores as you visit the town of **Kusadasi**, not far from the Ephesus site. An old fishing village with history going back 5,000 years, is now one of Turkey's most famous seaside resorts.

Offering historical visits to the remains of the ancient Greek city of Halicarnassus or the famous Castle of St Peter or the Museum of Underwater Archaeology, and the chance for a relaxing break on its stunning beaches, **Bodrum** is sure to win your heart.

Head for the Dodecanese islands, at the crossroads of the Orient and the Occident. The beautiful neoclassical houses surrounded by vineyards, olive trees and cypresses make **Symi** one of the most beautiful islands in the archipelago. You will then set a course towards **Patmos**, known as the 'Jerusalem of the Aegean Sea'. This island, where Saint John is said to have written the Apocalypse, offers unique landscapes combining white sandy beaches and rocky coves.

In the south-eastern Aegean Sea, the **Cyclades** archipelago invites you to enjoy the wild and appealing beauty of its islands. The landscapes of **Milos** , between limestone cliffs and small confidential coves can be discovered in a soothing atmosphere. *You* will then make a detour via the **island of Hydra**, famous for its incomparable light and the calm of its small streets on which all motorised traffic is banned.

Then you will reach **Istanbul**, a rich historical UNESCO listed site, at the end of a magnificent cruise.



The information in this document is valid as of 18/08/2022

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

ISTANBUL

Embarkation 24/07/2023 from 16:00 to 17:00

Departure 24/07/2023 at 18:00

Located on the Bosphorus, Istanbul is one of the most beautiful of all Turkish cities. Named Byzantium when founded by the Greeks, and then Constantinople under the Roman Empire, this city is steeped in history and, for this reason, is a listed UNESCO World Heritage site. Located on Sultanahmet hill, the great **Blue Mosque**, the mysterious **Hagia Sophia** and the vast **Topkapi palace** and its countless mosaics, dominate the Marmara Sea. In the Beyazit district, the **Grand Bazaar** allows to discover elegant covered passages. A little further away, delicate aroma of **loukoum** and spices will draw the visitors' attention at the Egyptian Bazaar.

BOZCAADA

Arrival 25/07/2023 midday

Departure 25/07/2023 late afternoon

Anchored off the coast of the legendary ancient city of Troy, in crystal-clear waters dotted with Greek islands **Bozcaada** is truly exceptional. And with good reason, since Bozcaada and its neighbour, Gökçeada, are the only Turkish islands in the Aegean Sea. Ceded to Turkey in 1923, it still bears traces of its past as a Greek island, as evidenced by its maze of cobbled streets and the traditional white houses with blue windows that dot the island. Renowned since antiquity for its vines, Bozcaada also stands out for its exceptional setting combining sheer cliffs, ribbons of golden sand, and tiny coves with translucent water.

KUSADASI

Arrival 26/07/2023 early morning

Departure 26/07/2023 late evening

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.

BODRUM

Arrival 27/07/2023 midday

Departure 27/07/2023 late evening

Bodrum is located one of the bays of Mugla on the west coast of Turkey. At the harbour entrance, you'll can't miss **The Bodrum Castle of The Knights of St. John**, the town's emblem. Here you will be able to visit the Bodrum Museum

of Underwater Archaeology housed within the castle precincts. In the centre, the passages shaded by arcades abound with diverse craft shops and ice-cream cafés where you can sit out and enjoy refreshing citrus fruit sorbets. A few streets away, the archaeological site of the **Halicarnasse mausoleum** invites you to experience the old town's past, just as the old theatre does, built on the slopes of the hillside looking out over the bay of Bodrum.

SYMI

Arrival 28/07/2023 early morning

Departure 28/07/2023 late afternoon

A simply ravishing gem in the Dodecanese, Symi is located north-west of Rhodes. This island of cypress forests, vineyards and olive orchards, possesses a capital city of the same name that is as colourful as the surrounding countryside. The charm of the port district of **Gialos** is not to be missed: its quaysides are lined with picturesque houses with multi-coloured facades. You can get to the upper town by car or climb the 500 steps up the **Kali Strata** ramp. The second option offers superb viewing points of the coast and gorgeous turquoise waters.

PATMOS

Arrival 29/07/2023 early morning

Departure 29/07/2023 evening

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.

ADAMAS, MILOS

Arrival 30/07/2023 early morning

Departure 30/07/2023 mid afternoon

Although Milos is especially renowned for the famous **statue of Venus** found in a field there and now displayed in the Louvre in Paris, this **mineral island** is also a geological treasure. Its volcanic origin is evident in its breathtaking landscapes and the colours of its cliffs, ranging from pure white to deep red. You'll discover the **wild beauty** of the shorelines lined with the most beautiful beaches in Greece from a ship deck, and you'll enjoy privileged access to **emerald-green coves**. Tiny **fishing ports** like Adamas hide there, with brightly-painted doors and terraces. Milos is a charming port of call in the heart of the Cyclades.

PAROS

Arrival 31/07/2023 early morning

Departure 31/07/2023 late afternoon

Famous for its white marble, the island of Paros is located in the Cyclades. Along the quays of **Parikia**, its main town, you'll see Byzantine churches and neoclassical buildings. To make the most of the turquoise waters, you can stop over in **Naoussa**. This little fishing port is bounded by a very beautiful cove.

HYDRA

Arrival 01/08/2023 early morning

Departure 01/08/2023 late evening

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 *caïques* 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**.

NAFPLION

Arrival 02/08/2023 early morning

Departure 02/08/2023 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.

AT SEA

Arrival 03/08/2023

Departure 03/08/2023

During your day at sea, make the most of the many services and activities on board. Treat yourself to a moment of relaxation in the spa or stay in shape in the fitness centre. Depending on the season, let yourself be tempted by the swimming pool or a spot of sunbathing. This day without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, to do some shopping in the boutique or to meet the PONANT photographers in their dedicated space. As for lovers of the open sea, they will be able to visit the ship's upper deck to admire the spectacle of the waves and perhaps be lucky enough to observe marine species. A truly enchanted interlude, combining comfort, rest and entertainment.

ISTANBUL

Arrival 04/08/2023 early morning

Disembarkation 04/08/2023 at 08:00

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