

The Cyclades, in the wake of Le Ponant

From **02/10/2022**
to **09/10/2022**

Ship: **LE PONANT**

From **Lavrio (Athens)**
to **Lavrio (Athens)**



“Eternity. It is the sea mingled with the sun”, according to a poem by Rimbaud. Whether you are a lover of the sea or a curious traveller, experience once again the indescribable joy of navigating under sail, bathed by the wind and sea spray, surrounded by the elements. Take your place aboard *Le Ponant*, a majestic three-mast yacht with elegant lines and an interior design created by the Jean-Philippe Nuel studio to be a warm and intimate setting with a very distinctive personality. As if you were on your very own yacht, match your inner tempo to the boat’s subtle oscillations and savour the freedom of living in the moment, being fully present for your trip. Find out more about *Le Ponant*, [here](#).

Aboard its emblematic yacht, PONANT is reshaping the contours of cruising and invites you to experience a new way of discovering the wonderful Mediterranean shores, between olive groves and sun-drenched vines. From unique and iconic ports of call to private moments, experience the very essence of the Mediterranean and welcome the unexpected like a breath of freedom.

From the port of **Lavrio**, located very close to beautiful Athens, you will set sail in the direction of the Cyclades, these small heavenly islets scattered around the Aegean Sea.

Off the beaten path, from exclusive paradises to emblematic landscapes, your journey takes shape, following the rhythm of the wind and the secret havens. Drink in the pure moments of sailing, cleaving through the foam, as you set off to explore intimate coves and hillside villages.

Carried by the wind, you will head towards **Tinos**, one of the Greek archipelago’s most preserved islands. The serene atmosphere of this spiritual centre infuses its sumptuous scenery. The white rocks of **Polyaigos** soften the jagged coasts of this uninhabited island, a natural sanctuary bathed by the crystal-clear and turquoise waters of the Aegean Sea.

In **Folegandros**, the scents of thyme and marjoram fill the air with sunny

perfume, and the picturesque white houses, their shutters enhanced by blue, are spread along the maze of small streets paved with *chora*.

You will leave the Cyclades and head towards the south-east of the Peloponnese. The fortified peninsula of **Monemvasia** will reveal itself, monumental, like a ship of stone overlooking the azure.

You will sail, senses heightened, towards **Kythnos**, a wild and hilly rock, tamed by traditional and environmentally friendly agriculture.

Planted with pine trees, olive trees and flowers, **Spetses**, known as “the island of jasmine”, is a popular haven of freshness in the Saronic Islands. The experiences, designed for you and with you, create possibilities for going back to basics in a setting that is conducive to contemplation.

At your own pace, immerse yourself in wild and stunning panoramas, away from the crowds, and enjoy moments spent in harmony with nature: glass-bottom kayaking, snorkelling, paddle-boarding, bike riding*.

**The experiences and activities on offer will be confirmed on board by the captain according to the weather conditions, the itinerary and the cruise plan.*



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YOUR STOPOVERS :

LAVRIO (ATHENS)

Embarkation 02/10/2022 from 16:00 to 17:00

Departure 02/10/2022 at 22:00

Near Athens, **Lavrion** is a peaceful port welcoming boats from around the world. The town has been known since ancient times for the silver-producing mines of Lavrion, which were major contributors to the wealth of Athens and to the Greek economy in the 20th century. Weather permitting, take a stroll through the town and discover the many vestiges of this industry that flourished until the 1980s: old Neoclassical-style constructions, industrial buildings, and worker houses. Not far from there, the ancient site of Thorikos reveals a Greek theatre and a marble temple dedicated to Demeter, both well preserved. The elegant silhouette of *Le Ponant* will be awaiting you at quay, to take you on an incredible journey to the heart of the Greek islands.

TINOS

Arrival 03/10/2022 early morning

Departure 03/10/2022 late evening

At full sail, you will chart a course to **Tinos**, a wild island in the Cyclades where, according to mythology, Aiolos lived. The cerulean blue of the Aegean Sea reveals, in contrast, the pretty port with immaculate buildings. Called “the island of the Virgin”, this pilgrimage destination for Greek Orthodox Christians is also an intimate refuge where Athenians join their families for holidays. The magnificent landscapes of this unspoiled island are dotted with numerous dovecotes, each with a finely crafted architecture. Here, the pared-down decor of the picturesque villages with whitewashed stone houses reveals itself between the intertwining streets and colourful bursts of bougainvillea in bloom. Be captivated by the magic of a wine tasting at sunset. The breathtaking view of Mykonos offers an exquisite setting to this moment frozen in time. Paid excursions are also possible, such as a van tour to discover the island’s villages or a hike along a high point between two villages.

POLYAIGOS

Arrival 04/10/2022 midday

Departure 04/10/2022 early evening

Further to the south of the Aegean Sea, *Le Ponant* will reach **Polyaigos**, an uninhabited, maquis-covered volcanic island protected for its flora and fauna. This white, craggy, sunlit rock with magnificent cliffs that plunge into the turquoise waters reveals its wild and natural beauty. With your yacht at anchor, you will discover the island’s secret contours and recesses, and enjoy magical moments swimming, snorkelling, paddle-boarding, kayaking, or riding aboard a Zodiac dinghy. From the sea pool set up near the marina platform, enjoy the charms of this stunning island until sunset when the white rocks are reflected in the crystal-clear waters, creating a golden shimmer.

FOLEGANDROS

Arrival 05/10/2022 early morning

Departure 05/10/2022 evening

A hidden treasure of the Cyclades, **Folegandros** is a mountainous island with an arid landscape patiently shaped into terraces by human hands. A lovely beach awaits you for a pleasant swim in the cyan blue water of the Aegean Sea. A shuttle can take you to the *chora*. Like many island villages, it was built long ago on the edge of a tall cliff to escape pirates. You will be captivated by the undeniable charm of the Cyclades architecture as you admire the white, one-storey houses with balconies and windows coloured in pretty shades of blue lining cobbled streets, hollyhocks and bougainvillea adorning their facades with their blooms.

MONEMVASIA

Arrival 06/10/2022 early morning

Departure 06/10/2022 evening

The jewel of the southern Peloponnese, **Monemvasia** is the romantic refuge for Athenians. Given the poetic nickname of the “stone ship”, this majestic peninsula is home to an incredible **fortified medieval village**, lying at the foot of its abrupt cliffs, which seems to have been cast by the gods from the **Aegean Sea**. Contemplate the horizon from its ramparts, a veritable walkway defying the azure waters, and stroll through its vaulted narrow streets with their thousand shades of ochre. At the crossroads of western and eastern influences and the maritime routes of the continent, Crete and the Cyclades, Monemvasia has preserved in this magical decor the treasures of Venetian and Byzantine architecture.

KYTHNOS

Arrival 07/10/2022 early morning

Departure 07/10/2022 early evening

You will discover **Kythnos**, an arid and rocky island covered in maquis. Low dry stone walls delimit the terraces where olive groves stand alongside fig and almond trees that feed the imagination as much as the people. Discover the *chora* and its beautiful white houses by taking a stroll along the intertwined streets. A breakfast of traditional local dishes is planned, in an enchanting and private setting. Then, the welcoming shade of a parasol awaits you for a nap on the beach. You might also be tempted by a swim or a spot of paddle-boarding or kayaking to discover the exceptional landscapes of this island surrounded by the exceptionally beautiful Aegean Sea. Local conditions permitting, an paid dive will be possible near wrecks, some of which date back to the Second World War.

SPETSES

Arrival 08/10/2022 early morning

Departure 08/10/2022 evening

Spetses, “the jasmine island”, is an unspoiled paradise and the favourite holiday spot of Athenian high society. The shaded outdoor dining areas of the restaurants serving local cuisine stand alongside beautiful boutiques. Away from the hustle and bustle of the world, stroll or cycle around the small port lined with the beautiful Neoclassical homes of shipowners and enjoy the pleasantness of the moment. There is a distinct *dolce vita* atmosphere in the air. From hidden coves to beaches of fine sand, this island is brimming with charm. The hiking trails through the pine forest

also promise beautiful panoramas.

LAVRIO (ATHENS)

Arrival 09/10/2022 early morning

Disembarkation 09/10/2022 at 07:00

Near Athens, **Lavrion** is a peaceful port welcoming boats from around the world. The town has been known since ancient times for the silver-producing mines of Lavrion, which were major contributors to the wealth of Athens and to the Greek economy in the 20th century. Weather permitting, take a stroll through the town and discover the many vestiges of this industry that flourished until the 1980s: old Neoclassical-style constructions, industrial buildings, and worker houses. Not far from there, the ancient site of Thorikos reveals a Greek theatre and a marble temple dedicated to Demeter, both well preserved. The elegant silhouette of *Le Ponant* will be awaiting you at quay, to take you on an incredible journey to the heart of the Greek islands.