

Athens and the Peloponnese

Athens - Gythio - Mystras - Katakolon - Olympia
Igoumenitsa - Meteora - Athens

8 days / 7 nights

From

\$3,949

Per person/Double occupancy/Land package
Departures: March 8, 15, 22, 29, 2024/ CAT.C

Take a cruise around Greece's Peloponnese on board the MV LA BELLE DE L'ADRIATIQUE and discover the most beautiful sites of antiquity. The cradle of mythology, this richly endowed region is set in a spectacular landscape. You'll visit the Unesco World Heritage site of Mystras, Sparta, the city that defeated Athens, and Olympia, site of the ancient games of the same name. The highlight of your cruise will be the discovery of Meteora, an enigmatic place in the heart of a landscape as splendid as it is surprising, with monasteries built on the summits of these rocky peaks. Not forgetting Athens, with its Acropolis towering above the city, and the Appolon coast road leading to Cape Sounion. This cruise will leave you with a lasting memory!

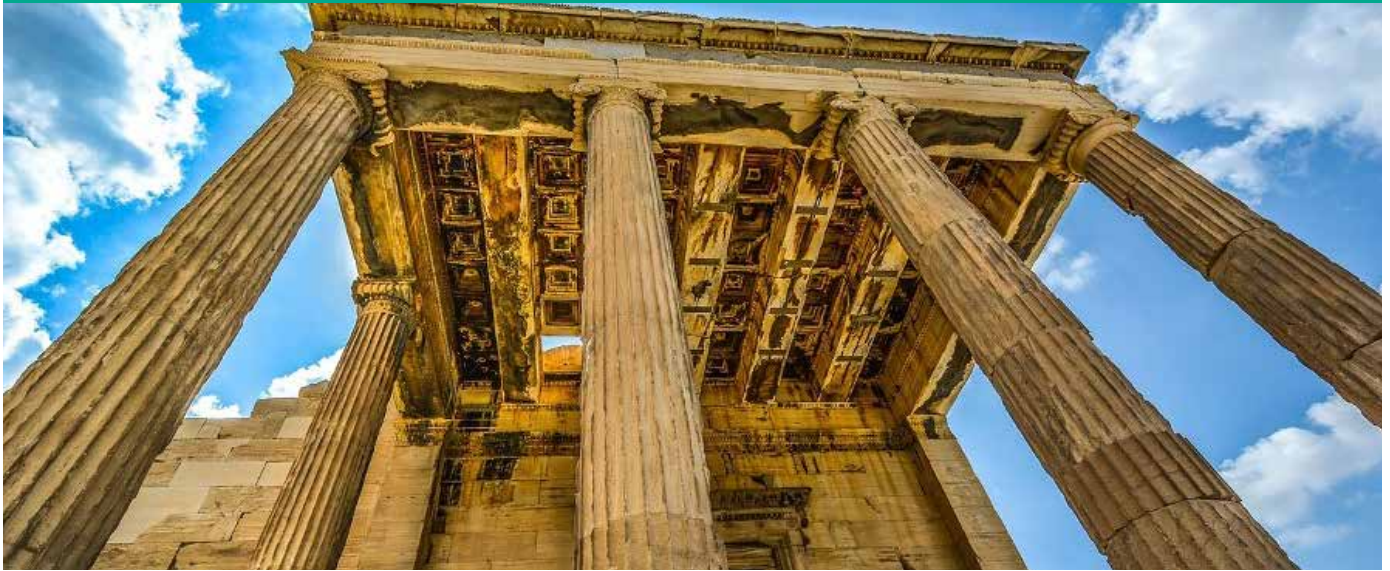


MV LA BELLE ADRIATIQUE

Day 1 : Athens

Passengers are welcome to board at 6:00 p.m. After comfortably settling into your cabins, you'll be introduced to the crew at a welcome cocktail. Enjoy dinner and an evening of entertainment on board.

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Day 2 : Athens

This morning, an included excursion to Athens and the Acropolis. The Acropolis in Athens sits majestically on a rocky outcrop overlooking the dense city below. The complex has had many uses, including a military base, housing for nobles, and religious center. Although it has been destroyed and rebuilt many times, today's restored and preserved ruins stir our imaginations as to the former splendor of famous buildings such as the Parthenon, Propylaea, Erechtheion, and the Temple of Athena Nike.

The ship will cruise towards the Peloponnese. Greek lunch (1) on the sun deck to the sound of traditional Greek music. Afternoon at sea.

Day 3 : Gythion - Mystras

This morning, join an included excursion to Mystras. Mystras, a marvelous wonder in the Peloponnese listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, was the center of Byzantine power in the 13th century. Developed along the hillside under an existing fortress, the city's influence helped it develop culturally and politically over several hundred years. We'll see the 14th-century Brontochion Monastery and the 15th-century Pantanassa Monastery, with beautiful interior frescoes. On the way back, stop in Sparta, synonymous with the military glory of ancient Greece. While Athens was known for its philosophers, Sparta was famous for its military strength. Spend the afternoon cruising.

Day 4 : Katakolon - Olympia

This morning, join for an included excursion to the archaeological site of Olympia. Olympia the birthplace of the Olympic Games, first held in honor of the god Zeus in 776 BC. The impressive ruins in Olympia include the Ancient Stadium and the temples of Zeus and Hera. Time and catastrophes have taken their toll on the structures, but archaeologists have been able to reveal their splendor for us to enjoy. The temple of Zeus was home to one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World—a seated statue of the god sculpted by Phidias. Spend the afternoon cruising.



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Day 5 : Igoumenitsa - Meteora

Day trip included: Meteora (approx. 5h round trip - lunch included). Discover one of the most spectacular sites in Greece. From the moment you arrive at Kalambaka, the view is breath-taking. Dozens of monasteries, built atop rocky peaks, defy the laws of weightlessness and imagination. In ancient times, these rocks were said to have fallen from the sky so that hermits could pray there. Our ship will cruise overnight.

Day 6 : At Sea

A full day's sailing around the Peloponnese, a region of unparalleled cultural richness, home to no less than five UNESCO World Heritage sites. The Peloponnese is one of the historic cradles of Hellenism and has been inhabited since prehistoric times. It has also been the scene of most of Greece's military conflicts, with leading historical examples such as the Peloponnesian War and the Greek Revolution of 1821. Tonight is our gala evening and dinner.

Day 7 : Athens

Spend the morning cruising.

In the afternoon, join an included excursion: the Apollo coast and Cape Sounion. You will follow the coast of Apollo on the perimeter of the Saronic Gulf where you can enjoy the continuous shimmering sea. At Sounion stands the ruins of the Poseidon's temple, overlooking the sea 60m at the end of a steep rock. This is very moving with its breathtaking landscapes. Here the ancient Greeks worshiped Poseidon, the almighty god of the sea. Fifteen Doric columns that have been preserved belong to the temple which was built during the golden age of Pericles. Greek folklore evening on board.

Day 8 : Athens

Enjoy breakfast on board this morning before disembarking at 9:00 a.m. End of services

