

GREEK ISLES ODYSSEY: MYTHOLOGY, HISTORY, AND CERULEAN SEAS CRUISE

Legends come to life in the Greek Isles, where sun-drenched shores hold ancient relics and rich traditions from one of the world's oldest civilizations. Embark on an Aegean odyssey to discover Cycladic islands both storied and secret, from iconic Santorini to laid-back Naxos and Paros, and explore them from every angle--through mythology and archaeology, natural wonders and culinary delights. Bask in the beauty of volcanic shores and whitewashed villages, and experience Aegean's inviting turquoise waters for swimming, paddleboarding, kayaking, and more.



ITINERARY

DAY 1 Athens, Greece / Embark Ship

Arrive in Athens and transfer to Lavrio, where we embark our ship in the afternoon. Settle into your cabin and take in your first Aegean sunset at sea.

Meals Included: Dinner





DAY 2 Serifos

Remote Serifos is a hidden gem of the Cyclades known for having some of the most beautiful beaches in the Aegean and, in Greek mythology, as the place where the infamous Medusa lost her head. The island is dotted with white-washed buildings splashed with brilliantly colored doorways and domes. Join our local guides as we explore an ancient fortress and a trio of windmills crowning a hill with panoramic views of the Aegean Sea. Choose to sit on the stone throne at the entrance to the supposed cave of Cyclops; swim, kayak, or paddleboard; or stop at a traditional kafeneia--or cafe--to sample local culinary specialties, like the almond amigdalota cookies or revithada (baked chickpeas).

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 3 Sifnos

Sifnos is a peaceful, rugged island known for its sandy beaches, plethora of churches, and trendy food scene. Go ashore for an early-morning hike before slowing down to enjoy the views from a scenic chora--or village--with a quaint harbor that invites discovery. Whatever your pace, this is the ideal place to explore on foot, whether it's a brisk walk or a lazy stroll along the beach.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 4 Milos

On the charming, volcanic island of Milos, see the ancient city of Phylakopi, a Bronze Age settlement and famous archaeological site. Capture stunning photos of Papafragas, a unique beach cove surrounded by towering white walls and natural caves. In the small town of Trypiti, visit the 1820 excavation site of 'Venus de Milo,' one of the most famous works of ancient Greek sculpture, now exhibited in the Louvre. Enjoy an afternoon on the water to swim, kayak, or paddleboard.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 5 Santorini

Venture to remarkable Santorini--an island archipelago formed from a single volcanic cone that erupted 3,600 years ago, burying the resident Minoan culture in ash. Sail directly into the caldera, then drive through windswept vineyards to reach the spectacular hilltop town of Oi a. Tour the Archaeology Museum and excavations at Akrotiri, an important Minoan town preserved under volcanic ash much like Pompeii, with remarkably intact houses, streets, pottery, and more.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 6 Paros / Naxos

Spend the morning hiking to the lighthouse on the laid-back island of Paros, followed by water activities in the bordering turquoise sea. This afternoon, venture to Naxos and choose from several activities, including a cooking class, wine tasting, a walking tour of the citadel, or a pottery demonstration. The natural beauty, incredible food, and relaxed vibe of Paros and Naxos provide an authentic Greek experience.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 7 Delos / Syros

The island of Delos is one of the most important mythical and historical sites in Greece and a designated UNESCO World Heritage site. In myth, it's the birthplace of the twin immortals Artemis, goddess of animals and the hunt, and Apollo, god of healing, music, and light. Spend a morning surveying the Terrace of the Lions and exquisite Temple of Apollo, two of the many incredible





ruins preserved here. Experience the town of Hermoupolis as the afternoon sunlight highlights its neo-Classical architecture. A walking tour takes you by the customs house, the main square, and stops at the Apollon Theatre and St. Nikolas Church on the hill.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 8 Athens / Disembark Ship

Arrive in Athens this morning. Enjoy a farewell breakfast on board before disembarking and transferring to the airport for your flight home.

Meals Included: Breakfast

Please note:

Routing may vary and stops may be subject to modification and/or permitting.





YOUR SHIP: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ORION

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VESSEL TYPE: Luxury Expedition

LENGTH: 103 metres

PASSENGER CAPACITY: 102 (in 53 cabins)

BUILT/REFURBISHED: 2003 / Refurbished 2014

Engineered for maximum comfort and safety, _Orion_ is equipped with the latest technology including large retractable stabilizers, sonar, radar, and an ice-strengthened hull. A shallow draft plus bow and stern thrusters provide the convenience of being able to maneuver close to shore. 14 Zodiacs ensure quick disembarkation and offer the ideal transport for up-close exploration.

National Geographic Orion meets strict specifications for environmental protection and the on board waste management systems meet the stringent Antarctic operational standards enabling us to travel to the most pristine environments. A host of advanced design features and technology ensures sustainable marine environmental practices.

National Geographic Orion accommodates 102 guests in 53 cabins, including several with balconies. She is spacious and modern, with a variety of public rooms that offer panoramic views of the passing landscape. Friendly and informal, _Orion_ fosters a welcoming atmosphere where like-minded guests share in exceptional experiences and enrichment.

Her public rooms include a dramatic window-lined main lounge, as well as an observation lounge and library perched at the very top of the ship, with plentiful observation decks. The spacious lounge is the heart of our expedition community, and is suited for spirited cocktail hours, informative presentations and our nightly tradition of Recap. In addition, a dedicated theater provides a unique setting for specialist presentations or films and slideshows. Both the main dining room and outside buffet easily accommodate all guests at once for open seating dining. On selected nights, weather permitting, our dining room menu is also available on the outside deck.

While _Orion_ interiors are elegant, life aboard is always casual, with no need for formal clothing. And you'll find shipboard services like laundry, in-room cabled internet, and public-area wifi.

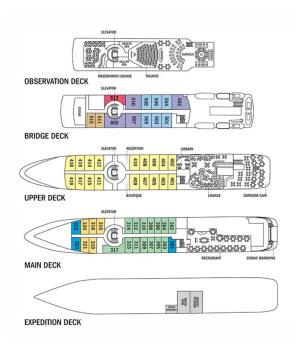


-area wifi.





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