

Ancient Cities of the Mediterranean

From **08/11/2026**
to **16/11/2026**

Ship: *Le Champlain*

From **Athens**
to **Valletta**



Set off a cruise discovering **ancient Mediterranean cities**. From the **Peloponnese to Sicily**, each port of call will reveal grandiose heritage: **Epidaurus and Mycenae, ancient jewels, both UNESCO World Heritage Sites; Monemvasia, a fortified city rising from the waves; Heraklion, guardian of Minoan mysteries; or Gythio, seaport of Ancient Sparta**. They will all immerse you in the myths of the Mediterranean Sea. Corfu will then unveil its Venetian influences, the premise for your Italian ports of call. Between palaces and the fragrance of citrus fruits, discover **Puglia and Gallipoli**, meaning “beautiful city” in Greek, and **Syracuse**, with its labyrinth of small streets punctuated with churches and ancient vestiges, celebrating the soul of Sicily.



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YOUR STOPOVERS :

ATHENS

Embarkation 08/11/2026 from 16:00 to 17:00

Departure 08/11/2026 at 18:00

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.

NAFPLION

Arrival 09/11/2026 early morning

Departure 09/11/2026 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.

MONEMVASIA

Arrival 10/11/2026 early morning

Departure 10/11/2026 late afternoon

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.

HERAKLION, CRETE

Arrival 11/11/2026 early morning

Departure 11/11/2026 late afternoon

Heraklion, the capital of **Crete**, is the island's most populous city. The hustle and bustle of this seaport is an integral part of its charm. It is built on a hillside overlooking the port and is encircled by **impressive Venetian walls**. From the top of these, you will be able to enjoy one of the most beautiful views of the city. The old town is teeming with small shops, squares, cafés and vibrant architectural evidence of the city's long history. The **Palace of Knossos** illustrates the wealth and power of its legendary sovereign, King Minos. The **archaeological museum** houses one of the largest collections of Minoan artefacts and is worth a visit.

GYTHIO

Arrival 12/11/2026 early morning

Departure 12/11/2026 midday

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.

CORFU

Arrival 13/11/2026 midday

Departure 13/11/2026 evening

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.

GALLIPOLI

Arrival 14/11/2026 early morning

Departure 14/11/2026 late afternoon

Gallipoli, which comes from the Greek *kalle polis*, meaning beautiful town, is very aptly named. Located on the heel of the boot, the town known as "the pearl of Puglia" has many attractions. The whiteness of its façades recalls its Greek origins while its architecture echoes its multiple influences. Its old town, perched on a limestone island, concentrates the cultural heritage of this city with a thousand faces, alternately a Roman colony, then Byzantine, the property of the Popes, Norman, under the rule of Taranto... By itself, it tells the story of the different civilisations of the Mediterranean Sea.

SYRACUSE, SICILY

Arrival 15/11/2026 midday

Departure 15/11/2026 evening

Its undulating rocky coastline, the endless sandy beaches, the menacing form of **Mount Etna** which surveys its island like a patriarch, the flowery gardens on the hillside... **Sicily** lays out its varied landscapes like a shopkeeper displays his wares. Described by Cicero as “the most beautiful city in the world”, **Syracuse** was one of the most prestigious cities in Sicily and at her height was even a rival for Athens. **A central city of Ancient Greece**, it was home to a succession of civilisations, each of which has left their mark. The blend of Arabic, Roman, Norman, Byzantine and Spanish cultures makes Syracuse a town that is extraordinarily rich in fragrances, colours and flavours.

VALLETTA

Arrival 16/11/2026 early morning

Disembarkation 16/11/2026 at 08:00

The whole of the Maltese capital Valletta is **UNESCO World Heritage** listed and occupies a peninsula in the north-east of the island. From the fountain of Tritons to Saint-Elme fort, there are as many majestic streets as there are narrow staircase vennels to explore. The painted loggia and carved corbels on the tall houses will accompany you in your explorations, and you'll rarely be bothered by traffic. You can visit the Grandmasters palace decorated with coats of arms and frescoes. **Saint-John's cathedral** and the ramparts which have guarded the city since the 16th century are also among the most emblematic sites of the city. Arranged in terraces, the **Barrakka Gardens** will punctuate your promenade with a green and floral experience.