

# THE IDYLIC GREEK ISLANDS & GREEK MAINLAND PLUS ISTANBUL & EPHEBUS, TURKEY 2024

**Departing Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024 for 16 Days / 15 nights**

Join us for our amazing Greek Islands cruise with a port of call in Athens, Mykonos, Santorini, Rhodes, Crete, Istanbul, Kusadasi / (Ephesus), Turkey. A truly magical experience aboard the Celebrity Silhouette and what a beautiful ship she is.



**Your Ship – The beautiful Celebrity Silhouette**

## The Elegant Dining Room



## **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

### **Day 1 – Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September – Rapid City Regional to Athens, Greece**

After checking-in at your designated departure airport, please go directly through to the departure gate so you don't get caught in a long line for security. Once aboard your transatlantic flight, sit back and relax on your overnight flight – present your Passports at check-in.

**Overnight aircraft – Meals as provided by the airline.**

### **Day 2 – Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September - Arrive in Athens, Greece and overnight.**

When you arrive in Athens, proceed through Immigration and Customs to the baggage re-claim area for your flight then make your way to the baggage reclaim area for Aegean Airlines and Stuart will meet you there. . After check in at the hotel you are free to relax and get an early night after your transatlantic crossing.

**Overnight Athens Hotel – No meals included today.**

### **Day 3 – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September – Board Ship and sail at 5.00pm**

Mid to late morning we depart the hotel and head for the Port of Piraeus where our floating hotel awaits us. Once on board we can settle into our staterooms and then explore the ship. Dinner tonight is in the Main Dining Room – Lunch and Dinner aboard Cruise Ship.

**Overnight aboard ship including all meals**

### **Day 4 – Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September – Mykonos, Greece – 7am to 7pm**

Nestled in the heart of Greece's Cyclades archipelago, Mykonos pulses with irrepressible energy. With its powder white houses, sparkling blue waters, and red-hot nightlife, The Island of the Winds is as colorful as the people who call the island home. You can walk narrow marble pathways laced with purple bougainvillea blooms, or go cycling on two wheels past off-the-path Ano Mera village. Explore Greece's maritime history at Armenistis Lighthouse, and check out the Folklore Museum's Mykonian ship models. Join in the raucous beach party on Super Paradise's shimmering sands, or watch the sun burn out beyond an Aegean horizon from an open-air seaside taverna.

**Overnight aboard ship including all meals**

### **Day 5 – Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September – Santorini – 7am to 10pm**

Santorini is one of the world's most popular islands, known best for its dramatic scenery, whitewashed villages and fiery volcanic activity. Here adventure bubbles above the Aegean Sea in the most bold and breathtaking ways. A cable car takes you to the capital of Fira, a bustling cliff-top town awash with old cathedrals, enthralling museum collections and cozy tavernas. Venture to the coast for a swim in the deep blue waters that lap red and black pebbled beaches. And peel back layers of lava and history among excavated Akrotiri. Whether it's by bicycle, ATV or on your own two feet, exploring this Cyclades isle never fails to impress.

**Overnight aboard ship including all meals**

### **Day 6 – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September – Chania, Crete – 8am to 6pm**

At the westernmost side of Crete, Chania is a wonderful place for vacations. With a charming medieval town, some of the most beautiful beaches in Greece, intriguing castles and a unique natural landscape, this region is full of amazing places to see!

**Overnight aboard ship including all meals**

### **Day 7 – Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September – At Sea Cruising**

A full day at sea relaxing around the pool

**Overnight aboard ship including all meals**

### **Day 8 – Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September – Rhodes, Greece – 7am to 5pm**

The Colossus might not be standing anymore, but the Greek island of Rhodes still delivers beauty and allure on a giant scale. The island instantly greets you with serene white-sand beaches and wide-open blue skies. See the site in the harbor where the now-destroyed wonder of the ancient world once stood. Then, head to the Old Town, surrounded by medieval walls and seven ancient gates. Don't miss the Palace of the Grandmaster, with its mosaic floors dating from Hellenic, Roman and early Christian times. Shop for a colorful menagerie of seashells by the shoreline — and don't forget to spend some time relaxing beside the translucent blue waves with your Greece cruise.

**Overnight aboard ship including all meals**

### **Day 9 – Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September – Ephesus (Kusadasi), Turkey**

The UNESCO World Heritage ruins of Ephesus impress even those familiar with the world's other ancient cities. Though excavations have been underway for 150 years, only 20 percent of the city has been uncovered. Check out the the Celsus Library — built in 117 A.D., the site is made up of towering columns highlighted by the statue of the goddess of wisdom. Cruises to Ephesus will give you a taste of Turkish life by strolling the seafront promenade and the bustling city center. Walk Marble Street, paved with actual marble slabs, which takes you from downtown to the Temple of Artemis — you can still see one lone remaining column from this wonder of the ancient world.

**Overnight aboard ship including all meals**

### **Day 10 – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September – At Sea Cruising**

Another relaxing day at sea

**Overnight aboard ship including all meals**

### **Day 11 Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September - Istanbul, Turkey - Arrive 7am**

There is nowhere in the world quite like Istanbul. Spread across two continents, Istanbul is a city of layers and contrasts. With historical sights like the Hagia Sophia and Topkapi Palace brushing up against buzzing bars and lively cafes, with Ottoman-era mosques a short walk from contemporary art museums and galleries, with traditional carpet shops around the corner from trendy boutiques, Istanbul is a city of old and new coexisting. The city never stops moving.

**Overnight aboard ship including all meals**

### **Day 12 Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September – Istanbul, Turkey – Depart 10pm**

A full day to explore Istanbul...

Turkey's largest city is both European and Asian and has been part of many empires. As a result, Istanbul is modern and traditional, familiar and exotic.

It is Istanbul's unique blend of Western and Eastern heritage and culture that attracts tourists from all over the world. Experience the comforts of modern Turkey in its malls, galleries and clubs, and the delights of traditional Turkish bazaars, palaces, taverns and mosques. Istanbul's natural beauty, with pleasant Mediterranean climate, completes its glorious appeal. Located on the Bosphorus Strait, Istanbul has the Sea of Marmara to the south and the Black Sea to the north. Istanbul connects Europe with Asia and this strategic position evoked many power struggles. Under its previous names of Byzantium and Constantinople, Istanbul served as the capital of the Roman, the Byzantine, the Latin and the Ottoman empires and was once also the capital of Islam. The Turks started to call it Istanbul, a name that was made official when the Turkish Republic was proclaimed in 1923. The Sultanahmet peninsula, which is home to the Old City, reflects Istanbul's diverse political and religious past, particularly in the architecture. The iconic Hagia Sophia (Ayasofya), for example, was once a Christian cathedral and later a mosque. Visit the nearby Topkapi Palace (Topkapı Sarayı), Hippodrome(Hipodrom) and Blue Mosque(Sultan Ahmed Mosque) and save some of your liras for the souvenirs in the Grand Bazaar (Kapalı Çarşı). Get a bird's-eye view of it all from the top of the 14th-century Galata Tower (Galata Kulesi) or visit nearby Miniaturk to see miniature versions of all these buildings. Cool off in the underground Basilica Cistern. Cross the Galata Bridge, spanning the Golden Horn, to visit Taksim Square and the New City.

**Overnight aboard ship including all meals**

### **Day 13 - Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September – At Sea Cruising**

Final day at sea doing exactly as you wish - Departure procedure will be given today for leaving the ship in the morning

**Overnight aboard ship including all meals**

**Day 14 – Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October – Arrive Athens 5.00am**

After leaving the ship we transfer to tour hotel in Athens and your afternoon tour of Athens aboard the Hop On Hop Off tour of this amazing City.

**Overnight Athens.**

**Day 15 – Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October – A full day at your leisure to explore Athens further at your leisure aboard the Hop On Hop Off Tour Bus.**

**Overnight Athens.**

**Day 16 – Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October – Transfer to Athens Airport and your return flight back to your Home Airport arriving same day**

**Accommodations:**

**Private Balcony Stateroom - \$5,995 per person (Double Occupancy)**



**Ocean View Stateroom - \$5,795 per person (Double Occupancy)**



## Itinerary at a glance

Price: from USD \$5,795 (pp based on double occupancy) - \$5,995 per person Ocean View with Balcony

Starts: Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Ends: Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024

### What's included?

Flights from most USA airports to Athens, Greece

1 pre-cruise overnight in Athens

All transfers from airport to hotel / Cruise Ship / Airport. All Taxes air and sea

All Meals aboard ship (specialty restaurants excluded)

Onboard Gratuities for Cabin Attendant & Main Dining Room Staff

2 post cruise overnights in Athens

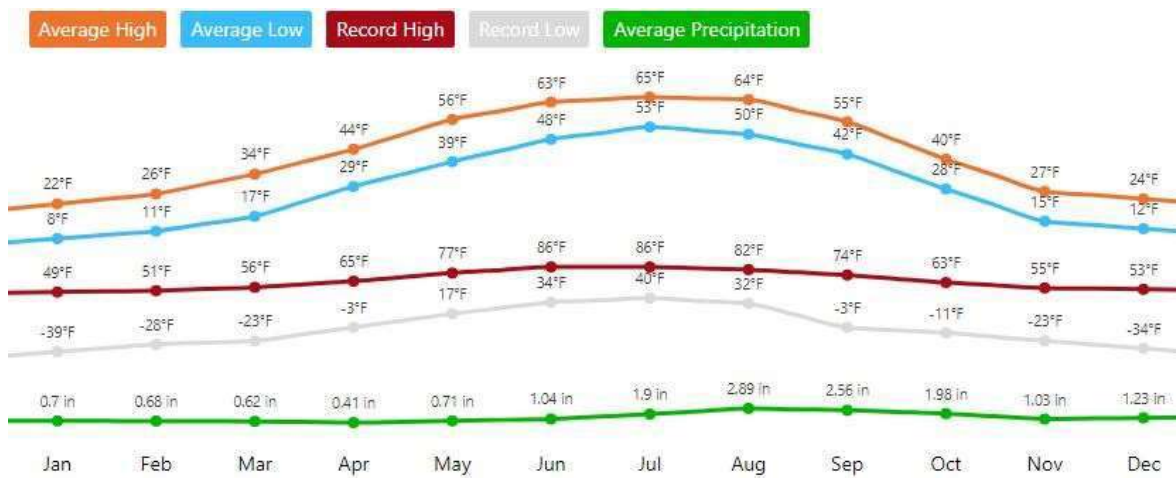
### How to book

- Deposit \$1,000 per person
- Balance due on or before 2nd May 2024

### What you'll need

- Passport Book is required for this tour – Passport Cards will not be accepted.
- A Camera for those who want to keep memories of this delightful trip.

### Weather:



July is on average the WARMEST month.

January is on average the COOLEST month.



1-888-788-6777

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ABS Travel Group | 945 Enchantment Road, Rapid City, South Dakota, USA  
1-888-788-6777 | 1-605-791-2520 Fax 605-791-2618