THE AEGEAN EXPERIENCE I

A Greek travel adventure par excellence, exploring the country’s extraordinary ancient sites and hopping from island to glorious island around the azure Aegean Sea.

5 – 13 October 2018
Athens back to Athens
Introduced for our 2018 summer season is a Greek adventure *par excellence*.

Boarding *Aegean Odyssey*, we set sail for some of the country’s most glorious and fascinating islands. Relax in surroundings of rugged, unspoilt beauty on Hydra, Nisyros, Karpathos, Delos and Mykonos. Discover more about the remarkably sophisticated Bronze Age Minoan civilisation in postcard-perfect Santorini and Crete, by legend home to the Minotaur and labyrinth. And appreciate more recent, Crusader-era history in Rhodes.

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**INTRODUCTION**

Please note – while we will do our best to adhere to this full itinerary, there may be changes at the discretion of the captain, due to weather advisories, port traffic and other unforeseeable circumstances.

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In this booklet, you will find useful destination information and a comprehensive guide to both included and optional shore excursions.

It also introduces your guest speakers and includes an invaluable reading guide to add an extra dimension of appreciation to your cruise.

We look forward to welcoming you on board.
VOYAGE HIGHLIGHTS

• The UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Rhodes Old Town and sacred Delos

• The rich history and mythology of Minoan Crete and Santorini

• Experience the spectacular volcanic island of Nisyros and walk on the Stefanos Crater

• Shop for local crafts in timeless, traditional Greek villages

• Appreciate unspoilt beauty and a more relaxed pace of life in Hydra, Mykonos and Karpathos

YOUR ITINERARY

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Ship at anchor  Ports introduced in 2018 are shown in gold

Please note – this is the cruise itinerary. If you have booked a longer programme with the pre-cruise hotel stay and land tour, you can find this information on pages 12-13.
5 OCTOBER 2018  ATHENS, GREECE

Embark Aegean Odyssey in Piraeus, the port of Athens, in the afternoon. The ship sets sail this evening.

6 OCTOBER  HYDRA, GREEK ISLANDS

The day is at leisure for you to make your own explorations.

With no cars, Hydra is perhaps the most charming and certainly one of the most unspoilt Greek Islands – long a refuge for wealthy Athenians from the hustle and bustle of the city. It is a tranquil and gentle introduction to our Greece adventure; the perfect place to enjoy a relaxing stroll, or simply watch the world go by from a harbourside café. Aegean Odyssey sails late afternoon, so take your time appreciating the beauty of Hydra.

ON-BOARD ENRICHMENT

Gillian Hovell kick-starts our enrichment programme today by introducing the Ancient Greek World and guides us from the very beginning to the Roman Empire. Later, Mike Clegg delves into the world of myth as we follow in the footsteps of Theseus. More details on page 15.

7 OCTOBER  SANTORINI, GREEK ISLANDS

An island of extraordinary beauty, presenting one of the defining visions of the Mediterranean, also boasts an enthralling history and delicious food and wine.

INCLUDED EXCURSION  Choice A

AKROTIRI AND OIA (Full day)

A full day excursion begins with a tour of the archaeological site of Akrotiri, a Bronze Age Minoan settlement which grew prosperous thanks to its position on the Mediterranean’s ancient copper trading route. For its time, it was a highly sophisticated city, with paved streets, an extensive drainage system and a district of workshops including metal smelters. The volcanic eruption which obliterated the city in 1627 BC also preserved it, like Pompeii and Herculaneum, and visitors may explore its shops, squares and houses, many still displaying frescoes depicting religious events, exotic animals, flowers and everyday life in Akrotiri. It makes for a fascinating and poignant experience.

We then continue to Oia, the most famous and most photographed village in Santorini. This is the postcard view of the island – whitewashed houses and churches clinging to the cliffside, overlooking the azure sea. The old capital Pyrgos, with its large Venetian castle, is located at the highest point of the island and we take in the impressive panoramic vistas, before concluding our excursion in the stunning present day capital, Fira, where you may enjoy a stroll through the town before returning to the ship via cable car.
OIA AND ARGYROS WINERY (Full day)

The breathtaking village of Oia, on the northernmost tip of Santorini, is one of Europe’s loveliest sights, with its blue domes and white and pastel coloured houses – the Mediterranean of the popular imagination. This alternative full day excursion presents the opportunity to wander its narrow streets, admiring the handmade ceramics, paintings and semi-precious jewellery on display in its tiny shops. Relax with a coffee at one of the characterful cafes and drink in the beautiful views of island and sea.

Impressive views are also the order of the day at the 18th century Monastery of Mount Profitis Ilias, an excellent example of Cycladic architecture atop Santorini’s highest peak. Our scenic drive then continues to the Argyros wine estate. Founded in 1903, this family-run vineyard combines ancient traditions with modern technology to produce some of the island’s most prestigious wines, which we are invited to taste. Then a short drive brings us to Fira, the picturesque capital of Santorini, with free time to explore before returning to Aegean Odyssey via cable car.

ON-BOARD ENRICHMENT

Ahead of our arrival in Crete, Gillian Hovell complements Mike Clegg’s Minoan introduction. In her lecture entitled ‘Grabbing Life by the Horns’, Gillian explains how myths and legends combine with archaeology. A fascinating insight into life on the Greek island 3500 years ago! More details on page 15.

8 OCTOBER HERAKLION, CRETE, GREEK ISLANDS

Greece’s largest island is a magical blend of wild beauty, charming villages, ancient marvels and a rich mythology as the birthplace of Zeus and home to the monstrous Minotaur.

Knossos
INCLUDED EXCURSION

KNossos Palace and National Archaeological Museum
(Half day, AM)
At the height of its wealth and influence, the city of Knossos must have been an awe-inspiring sight. The capital of Minoan Crete and the centre of an advanced Bronze Age civilisation, it was one of the great settlements of antiquity. At its heart, the multi-storey Palace of Knossos covered an astonishing 20,000m² – according to legend, it was the seat of King Minos, whose wife gave birth to a creature half-man, half-bull; the Minotaur, which lurked in the intricate labyrinth and feasted on the annual gift of seven young men and seven young women. Theseus, Prince of Athens, negotiated his way through the labyrinth with a golden thread and vanquished the monster, earning the love of Minos’ daughter Ariadne. But the tale had an unhappy ending – Theseus abandoned Ariadne on his return journey and, as a punishment, the gods caused him to forget to change the colour of his sails from black to white to confirm that he lived. Upon seeing the black sail approach, his distraught father King Aegeus threw himself from the cliff into the water below – the sea which has been called the Aegean ever since.
Join us in discovery of this legendary place, destroyed by earthquake, but carefully unearthed and meticulously reconstructed to give an idea of its former grandeur. Further insights into Minoan life and art may be found at the Heraklion Archaeological Museum, one of the best in Greece.

OPTIONAL EXCURSION

Cretan Village Life - $35 per person
(Half day, PM)
In the benevolent shadow of Mount Youchtas, believed by the ancients to have been the birthplace of Zeus and his place of entombment, is Archanes, its lovingly restored traditional pastel-coloured houses and tumbling bougainvillea earning it the reputation of one of the Greek Islands’ most picturesque villages. The small but fascinating Archanes Archaeological Museum, housed inside a 19th century neoclassical building that originally served as the village’s first school, exhibits finds and replicas unearthed during nearby excavations of a Minoan palace thought to have been the summer residence of an ancient king of Knossos. A guided walk then takes in the traditional houses and churches, and there is time to enjoy Greek hospitality and a few local specialities in the village tavern, before we return to Heraklion by way of another splendidly attractive village, Vathipetro.
9 OCTOBER  KARPATHOS, GREEK ISLANDS

Here, according to Greek myth, on this unspoilt Dodecanese island of wild mountains, golden beaches and gorgeous coves, was born Prometheus and his Titans. Please note — coach transportation is limited in this port.

INCLUDED EXCURSION

VILLAGES OF KARPATHOS
(Half day, AM/PM)

Little touched by tourism, Karpathos is an island of picturesque villages where historic traditions live on. This panoramic coach tour takes in some of the most interesting villages such as Othos, the highest village in the Dodecanese, with striking sea views and a wonderful folklore museum. Pyles has an open-air agricultural museum featuring a windmill, farmhouse and a wine press; and we pass by the beachfront village of Arkasa to visit the Church of Agia Sophia, one of the oldest on the island. The guides will choose where to stop and show you some of the unique features of this off-the-beaten track island, before returning to the main town where you can enjoy some free time.

OPTIONAL EXCURSION

HIGHLIGHTS OF KARPATHOS
$45 per person* (Full day)

Historically, the people of northern Karpathos lived on the coast, in the ancient Doric city of Vrykounda. But, after a series of raids by Saracen pirates in the 6th century, around 70 families decided to move inland and build a fortified settlement on the slopes of a mountain. Until recently, the only way to reach this remote village, named Olympos, was from the nearby port of Diafani, and this excursion has been designed to evoke that traditional journey, by way a delightful coastal boat ride from the main town of Pigadia, where Aegean Odyssey is berthed.

Olympos itself is so traditional as to be like a living museum, the local women dressed in brightly coloured garments and the shoemakers happy to have an audience for their work. We will also visit one of the old pastel-coloured houses and the Byzantine church dedicated to the Assumption of the Virgin, and take some time at leisure to enjoy local hospitality.

*Includes a credit for unused included excursion. Group lunch is not included on this tour.

CRUISE VIDEO

Scan the QR code below to go straight to the online video for this cruise*

* UK version

voyagetoantiquity.com
10 OCTOBER RHODES, GREEK ISLANDS

Largest island of the Dodecanese, Rhodes found fame in the ancient world as the site of the wondrous Colossus, and still bewitches with its history, its beauty and its hospitality.

INCLUDED EXCURSION Choice A

OLD TOWN AND GRAND MASTER’S PALACE (Half day, AM)

A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Old Town of Rhodes has a mesmerising history. This island once belonged to the Knights of St John, and the Grand Master’s Palace was modelled on the monumental Papal Palace of Avignon. The Knights were expelled from their stronghold after a successful Ottoman siege in 1522, though they found another island home – and immortality – in Malta, where they withstood another Ottoman invasion against overwhelming odds in 1565, finally curtailing Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent’s European ambitions. Rhodes Old Town has plentiful evidence of this and other conquests during its long history, and the earliest artefacts – including a sublime statue of a bathing Aphrodite – may be found in the Archaeological Museum, housed in the 15th century Hospital of the Knights.

After the guided tour, you are welcome to return with us to the ship or continue with your own explorations.
ACROPOLIS AT LINDOS (Half day, AM)
Alternatively, discover the majestic and beautifully preserved Acropolis of Lindos. The Temple of Lindian Athena, an archaeological gem dating back to the town’s Doric heyday, is located here, at its highest point, enclosed by later, 12th century Crusader battlements. Lovely views of this part of the island and the many-hued waters of the Aegean may be appreciated from atop this fortified hill.

The afternoon is at your leisure. The port, just a short stroll from the main gates, is well located for independent visits to the Old Town, renowned as one of the best places to shop for crafts in the Aegean – especially jewellery, art and pottery. Shopping in Rhodes is a cultural experience in its own right, with its myriad narrow streets more like an Arab souq. But as our local guides say, when you get lost in this maze just take a street that goes downhill and you will find the harbour again.

NISYROS AT A GLANCE (Half day, AM/PM)
Greek mythology has it that Nisyros was once a part of Kos, until Poseidon threw a piece of the island at the giant Polybotes, trapping his foe and creating a volcano, beneath which Polybotes still shakes and groans. Whatever its origin, the volcano of Nisyros is one of the biggest in the world. In the last 150,000 years, there have only been three significant eruptions, the last during the Middle Ages.

The benefits, though, are manifold. Flowers flourish in the volcanic soil, as we see on a scenic drive, and exploring the otherworldly volcanic landscapes – such as the Stefanos Crater, with its steaming fumaroles and bubbling sulphur pools – feels like stepping into the pages of a Jules Verne novel. Perched on the lip of the caldera is the tiny village of Nikia, one of the most authentic in Greece with a population of less than 100, brightly painted houses, a 15th century church and main square with pebble-stone mosaic (choklakia).

ON-BOARD ENRICHMENT
Throughout this voyage, be sure not to miss the destination talks given by our on-board Greek expert, which bring to life the culture and customs of this part of the world. As we approach the visit to Delos at the end of the cruise, Gillian Hovell looks closer at the role of Apollo and asks some intriguing questions. More details on page 15.
12 OCTOBER DELOS/MYKONOS, GREEK ISLANDS

Two neighbouring islands present two contrasting but equally appealing aspects of Aegean cruising – the archaeological splendour of sacred Delos and the laid-back charm of idyllic Mykonos.

INCLUDED EXCURSION

SACRED DELOS (Half day, AM)

At the centre of the circle for which the Cyclades are named is the sacred island of Delos, mythical birthplace of Apollo and Artemis. This tiny isle comprises one of the most interesting archaeological sites in Greece, and our tour reveals both its history and its legends.

Ancient columns gleam in the sun; the Lions of Delos guard the Sacred Way in a great monumental avenue of statues; at the Sacred Lake (now dry), where those twin gods were said to have been born, savour the almost-mystical silence. Then there are ruins of streets and shops, temples and markets, a grand amphitheatre and houses with mosaic floors. It is a haunting site of myriad treasures, recognised by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site.

At noon, we set sail for nearby Mykonos, and we conclude our cruise with time at leisure to enjoy the island’s unhurried pace of life amongst the delightful cafes and shops. Aegean Odyssey begins her return to the Greek mainland this evening.

13 OCTOBER PIRAEUS, GREECE

Disembark Aegean Odyssey after breakfast, in the port of Piraeus.
Voyages to Antiquity cruises include shore excursions in almost all ports of call. Some ports offer different sightseeing opportunities – in these instances, we may offer additional, optional alternatives at extra cost.

WHAT TO EXPECT  Our sightseeing programmes are outstanding, but can be challenging. Visits to historic sites and natural wonders often require walking over uneven surfaces, up and down multiple steps or steep paths. Therefore a reasonable level of fitness and mobility is recommended. Some passengers may decide to take a break from excursions on more strenuous days and instead explore the environs of the port.

Look for the symbols alongside each excursion description. The key to these symbols may be found on page 5. These give a good idea of the level of walking involved. Tour durations are approximate and, to avoid overcrowding and ensure you enjoy the best experience, the sequence of site visits and operating times may vary. The staff on board Aegean Odyssey will brief you each evening on the plans for the following day and all departure times and meeting points will be advised in the Daily Journal. Some countries require you to carry certain documents ashore and this will be advised on board at the appropriate time.

As a result of severe weather or unforeseen changes to opening/closing times, we reserve the right to alter, cancel or substitute an included excursion at any time. This happens extremely rarely and every reasonable effort is made to ensure that the advised schedules are followed. If a change is made, guests will be advised in their final documents or at the shore excursion briefings on board.

EXCURSIONS WITH THE EXTENSIVE WALKING SYMBOL  Some excursions which feature in our programmes are not suitable for guests with any mobility restrictions. In accordance with our Fitness to Travel statement and in order to ensure Voyages to Antiquity can deliver a high quality land programme, the ship reserves the right to transfer you to an alternative excursion if they believe that your original choice is unsuitable. Please consider your fellow guests and only select this option if you are certain you able to meet the activity level.

THE SHORE EXCURSION TEAM  Our Shore Excursion Manager and Graduate Assistants are on hand to make sure you get the most out of your excursion experience. Informative briefings will be provided on the tour options and more generally on upcoming ports of call, and the team can field any further questions in the Reception area.

During the excursions, we endeavour to have a representative on every coach, but this is not always possible and cannot be guaranteed. The role of the team ashore is to ensure the smooth running of the excursion in conjunction with the local guide and operator. This often means rotating between groups. Though always keen to assist, the team therefore cannot be responsible for providing walking support or making sure that everyone in the group is present at a particular time. Please ensure that you sign up for your preferred excursions at the embarkation desk at the start of the cruise. Some excursions may operate subject to minimum numbers, and we need to know in advance how many passengers are joining each excursion in order to book coaches and guides.

OUR GUIDES  A good local guide, keen to share his or her knowledge and enthusiasm for a particular attraction can transform a visit. All of our shore excursions feature qualified, highly-rated English-speaking guides with just this expertise and passion.

SHOPPING  Whilst Voyages to Antiquity shore excursions focus on the history and culture of a particular destination or attraction, some offer the chance to visit local workshops and view demonstrations of crafts and artistic techniques. Unlike other cruise operators, we have no affiliation with any shopping establishment. We do not assume responsibility for purchases made ashore and recommend insuring anything you choose to ship home.

TRANSPORTATION  Various modes of transportation may be used depending on the excursion. Motor-coaches are deluxe, air-conditioned vehicles unless not available in that port. Wi-Fi is not generally available on coaches.

CLOTHING TIPS  Although high summer temperatures are not expected at this time of year, we strongly recommend the use of sun hats and sunscreen during excursions. Sturdy walking shoes are also advised, especially when visiting archaeological sites. Please dress respectfully for visits to sites of a religious nature – generally this means that shoulders and knees should be covered. Further clothing tips will be provided at the on-board briefings, along with weather forecasts for the following day.
Voyages to Antiquity offers a variety of cruise packages, some of which include land touring elements before and/or after the cruise itself. In this case, a four-night, pre-cruise land tour of Greece’s ancient sites.

1 OCTOBER ATHENS, GREECE
Upon arrival in Athens, we transfer you to your centrally located hotel. The remainder of the day is at leisure.

2 OCTOBER ATHENS, GREECE
Greece’s capital is a unparalleled treasure-trove of ancient wonders, from the iconic Acropolis and Parthenon to temples, stadia and theatres galore. Gritty and edgy, yet warm and welcoming, modern-day Athens also captivates its visitors.

INCLUDED EXCURSION Choice A
ACROPOLIS & MUSEUM (Half day, AM)
The zenith of artistic and architectural achievement in the 5th century BC Athenian ‘Golden Age’, the collection of temples atop the Acropolis are unmissable. The Parthenon takes top billing, but the Erechtheion, with its beautiful caryatid porch, the grand Propylaia gateway and the tiny, stunning Temple of Athena Nike also merit attention. Below the temple complex is the Theatre of Dionysos, where the dramas of Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides were first performed. The Acropolis Museum is a grand timeline of Acropolis history and artefacts, with the original Erechtheion caryatids and Parthenon frescos on display.

INCLUDED EXCURSION Choice B
BYZANTINE ATHENS (Half day, AM)
Never in the history of Christianity has a school of artists infused such a high degree of spirituality into its work than the Byzantine icon painters and mosaicists. Our alternative excursion reveals the glory of Byzantine art on a visit to the Byzantine Museum, with its extraordinary breadth of exhibits dating from the 4th to the 19th centuries; and the Kaisariani Monastery on the slopes of Mt Hymettos, with its Roman foundations and colourful frescos.

OPTIONAL EXCURSION
NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM - $35 per person (Half day, PM)
Founded at the end of the 19th century to house and protect antiquities from all over Greece, the National Archaeological Museum is an extraordinarily rich repository of ancient art and sculpture. Marvel at Cycladic, Minoan, Mycenaean and Classical Greek masterpieces, and standout highlights including the iconic golden mask of Agamemnon, the bronze horse and jockey of Artemision and vibrant Minoan frescos from Santorini.
3 OCTOBER ATHENS/OSIOS LOUKAS/DELPHI, GREECE

En route to Delphi, we visit the historic walled monastery of Osios Loukas, a triumph of Middle Byzantine architecture and art.

Delphi was considered by the ancients to be the physical and spiritual centre of the earth. The shrine of Apollo, set 600m up on the slopes of Mount Parnassus, can still exert a potent grip on the visitor. Here was the most respected oracle of antiquity, where the great Athenians would come to hear the thoughts of the gods as interpreted by the ‘inspired’ priests and priestesses. Delphi grew fabulously rich with offerings and, though much was destroyed by earthquakes and zealous Christians, in the ruins of the sacred way, temples and a theatre with splendid acoustics, you can still imagine the site as it once was, as well as admire breathtaking views to the blue waters of the Gulf of Corinth. The accompanying museum houses many treasures including the stunning bronze Charioteer.

We stay at a hotel in this beautiful village, where dinner is included.

4 OCTOBER DELPHI/MYCENAE/NAUPLIA, GREECE

Tales of Agamemnon and Homer’s heroes take centre stage today as we visit Mycenae. The Mycenaean civilisation dominated the eastern Mediterranean from the 16th to the 13th century BC, laying the foundations of Classical Greece. The citadel that stands guard over the city is built high above two rock-strewn ravines, and legend holds that it was constructed with the aid of the Cyclops. We enter Mycenae on foot through the Lion Gate, Europe’s oldest piece of monumental statuary. It was here that the victorious but battle-weary Agamemnon was greeted by his wife, Klytemnestra, on his return from the long war with Troy, only to be murdered by her lover. Inside the gates, explore the Royal Palace and relive the tragic story at an archaeological briefing in the Treasury of Atreus (Tomb of Agamemnon).

In the afternoon, we drive to Nauplia, capital of the Argolis area. The ancient part of the town has an authentic atmosphere, with cobbled alleyways lined with local shops and taverns.

We overnight at a hotel in this picturesque port, where dinner is included.

5 OCTOBER NAUPLIA/EPIDAURUS/CORINTH CANAL/PIRAEUS, GREECE

In the 6th century BC, Epidaurus was sacred to the god of medicine, Asclepius. With the wealth generated from its popular medical facilities and healing treatments, the city embarked on a tremendous building programme, and much of its ancient grandeur may still be seen. Temples and hospital buildings present an insight into its healing cults, but the jewel of this vast UNESCO World Heritage Site is the 14,000-seat theatre designed by Polycletus, still in use today, with acoustics so perfect that it is said you can hear a pin drop from the highest tier. Nowhere is easier to imagine the staging of the great Greek tragedies and comedies.

We continue to Piraeus by way of the impressive Corinth Canal, and board Aegean Odyssey.

Please note – due to limited hotel space outside Athens, this pre-cruise tour will be split into two groups. The first will visit sites in the order described; the second will visit non-Athens sites in the reverse order, as follows:

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<td>5 Oct</td>
<td>Delphi/Osios Loukas/Piraeus</td>
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Your documentation will show to which group you have been assigned.
A quintessential element of the Voyages to Antiquity experience is our programme of on-board lectures from world-renowned guest speakers, carefully chosen for their expertise, their passion and enthusiasm for their subject, and their ability to engage with an audience. 6-9 talks per cruise, held in the Ambassador Lounge, add an extra dimension of understanding and appreciation to a destination or culture. Topics range from art and history to archaeology and architecture, food and wine to theology and the natural world.

GROUP CAPTAIN MIKE CLEGG RAF Retired and The Arts Society Accredited Speaker

Group Captain Mike Clegg served for 39 years in the Royal Air Force, firstly as a professional submarine hunter, finally as a political adviser to the Commander Allied Air Forces Southern Europe on contentious issues concerning Greece and Turkey.

His interest in archaeology was stimulated by membership of an expedition to survey the Roman harbour of Sabratha in Libya. Later, while based in Malta, he was able to visit many of the famous archaeological sites in the Mediterranean, helped by the fact that his aircraft - the Shackleton - was none too reliable and various technical malfunctions led to emergency landings the length and breadth of the Med. These enforced stops, as well as scheduled exercises in Greece and Turkey, gave opportunities to visit such fascinating places as Pompeii, the Acropolis of Athens, the Palace of Knossos on Crete, Ephesus in Turkey, and Kourion in Cyprus. These experiences led to an abiding interest in the ancient world.

On returning to the UK he undertook a two-year part-time archaeology course at the University of Oxford, which resulted in the award of the University’s Advanced Certificate in British Archaeology. Mike returned to Naples where he continued his degree studies with courses on Renaissance Art. On completion, Mike was awarded a First-Class Honours Degree and a Diploma in Classical Studies.

GILLIAN HOVELL Archaeologist, Accredited Lecturer of The Arts Society

After graduating in Latin and Ancient History at Exeter University and a career in BBC Television, Gillian became deeply involved in archaeology. As an author, historian, archaeologist, tour guide and Accredited Lecturer of The Art Society, the Reithian mantra of ‘educate, inform and entertain’ remains central to her work. She specialises in lively, passionate and engaging history that connects with our lives today, enabling audiences to relate to archaeology and to find depth and colour in our modern lives through the past’s continuing influence on us today.

She has lectured to audiences including the national media, Classical Associations, art galleries, museums and literary festivals and her books include Visiting the Past: finding and understanding Britain’s archaeology and Roman Britain, and Latin All Around Us: Why the Romans still matter today. She also shares her love of ancient history by teaching Latin and Roman History to adults and by continuing to work with community archaeology projects. She embraces all media for spreading the word about archaeology and was most recently heard on Radio 4.
LECTURES

THE ANCIENT GREEK WORLD: PEOPLES IN AND AROUND THE WINE DARK SEAS (Gillian Hovell)
A tour through the ancient civilisations of Greece, from the very beginning to the Roman Empire, meeting the ebb and flow of peoples and cultures within and around Greece and her islands.

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THESEUS (Mike Clegg)
Like you, Theseus, Prince of Athens, travelled to Crete where he encountered the terrifying Minotaur. A myth, but does it contain an element of fact? We’ll follow in Theseus’ footsteps and learn more about the Minoans, the people of Europe’s first civilisation, lost for 3000 years.

THE MINOANS: GRABBING LIFE BY THE HORNS (Gillian Hovell)
3,500 years ago, the Minoans ruled Crete and the seas; myths and legends combine with archaeology to create one of the greatest stories of the ancient world.

HONOURING THE GODS (Mike Clegg)
Greek city-states invested vast wealth and effort in the building and decoration of magnificent temples as homes for their gods. Studying this art and architecture helps us to understand the people’s religious beliefs. And taking part in the Panathenaia, the most sacred of their religious festivals, will give us a more personal insight.

DIVINE INTERVENTION: APOLLO’S MISSIONS (Gillian Hovell)
As we visit the sacred island of Delos, just who was the multi-tasking god, Apollo? And what really went on in those temples?

Specific lecture topics are subject to change

DESTINATION SPECIALIST TALKS

A local, Greek expert joins us on this voyage of Greek discovery. Our destination specialist will aim to discuss topics concerning the daily way of life in Greece and share local insight into the destinations we are visiting. Topics to be covered include:

Tastes of Crete This talk investigates the Cretan cuisine and gives you tips regarding tasting the local specialities throughout the island.

Traditional Dress in Greece As we visit some of the most traditional villages in Karpathos, this discussion looks at the custom of traditional dress focussing on Karpathos but also looking further afield.

A Geographical Overview A summary of the regions visited accompanied by local knowledge – including some interesting facts about the volcanic islands of Santorini and Nisyros and how they are so different.

These short talks will take place after the daily Shore Excursion briefings and will be listed in your Daily Programme on board.

Specific lecture topics are subject to change
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Carrying an average of just 350 passengers, the premium class *Aegean Odyssey* is small enough to sail along rivers such as the Yangon and Guadalquivir, and into the most characterful ports of call inaccessible to the mega-ships. The service is more personal, the atmosphere more convivial and you get plenty of time to interact with the guest experts.

Yet on the other hand she is large enough to offer a superb range of amenities, including a choice of dining venues and comfortable bars, a relaxing spa centre and one of the best stocked libraries at sea. Cabins and staterooms are spacious and intelligently designed, and dedicated solo cabins at a low supplement are available across almost all categories, including balcony level.

### On-Board Facilities

- A choice of restaurants
- Three lounges
- Four bars
- Lecture theatre
- Library
- Shop
- Internet centre
- Outdoor pool
- Athena Health Spa and gym
- Beauty salon
- Medical centre
DELIGHTFUL DINING

Fortunately, the fascinating and beautiful regions sailed by Aegean Odyssey are also renowned for their strong culinary traditions, sublime local ingredients and delicious signature dishes. We draw on these inspirations to deliver a dining experience of sustained quality in keeping with your chosen itinerary.

MARCO POLO

Though the more 'formal' dining option, with full waiter service and multi-course meals, Marco Polo has a casual country club elegance appreciated by guests. Join us here for dinner (and lunch on full days at sea) and enjoy a selection of expertly prepared dishes reflecting the countries visited and accompanied by complimentary wine, beer and soft drinks*.

TERRACE CAFE

With a mix of indoor and alfresco seating, the informal Terrace Cafe is a charming alternative to the white glove refinement of the Marco Polo restaurant. Here, friendly staff serve up splendid breakfast buffets and mouthwatering lunch and dinner delights from a variety of stations, including sizzling grilled meats and succulent fish, crisp pizzas and indulgent pasta, fresh salads and fruit, again to the accompaniment of complimentary wine, beer and soft drinks*.

* Complimentary wine, beer and soft drinks with dinner

AFTERNOON TEA AND LATE NIGHT SNACKS

There is something uniquely pleasurable about afternoon tea aboard a classic cruise ship, and you won't want to miss the scones, pastries and finger sandwiches served up in the Terrace Cafe most days of your cruise.

And if you can manage even more gastronomic delights, hors d’oeuvres and late night snacks, from filo prawns to chocolate-dipped strawberries, are available in the Charleston Lounge at 5pm and 10.30pm.

MARCO POLO RESTAURANT

**Appetisers**

- **SHRIMP ROYALE**
  Tiger prawns marinated in pink Champagne sauce on radicchio and endive

- **ANGUS BEEF CARPACCIO**
  Served with porcini mushrooms, arugula lettuce and fresh parmesan flakes

- **SEA SCALLOPS AND CHERRY TOMATO BROCHETTE**
  Served on gorgonzola-flavoured spinach with light tarragon foam

**Soup & Salad**

- **WEST INDIAN PUMPKIN & GINGER SOUP**
- **INSALATA DI TAORMINA**
  Mediterranean-style salad with lobster, salmon, shrimps, green beans, endive, shallots and roasted pine seeds

**Main Courses**

- **CASARECCE ALLA SORRENTINA**
  Fresh sautéed pasta with tomatoes, garlic, basil, oregano, parmesan and mozzarella

- **GRILLED FRESH SEA BREAM FILLET**
  Served with Mediterranean herbs, almond broccoli, green asparagus, butter-sautéed Parisienne potatoes and sauvignon sauce

- **GLAZED BARBARIE DUCK SUPREME**
  In Grand Marnier sauce served with red cabbage and almond potato

- **LIGHT MEDIUM FRENCH LAMB RACK**
  In thyme-ciabatta crust with vegetable ragout and lemon potato

*From the Vegetarian Kitchen*

- **GRILLED EGGPLANT AND BELL PEPPER MASALA**
  Braised in yogurt with Indian spices, served with coconut-pistachio basmati rice

- **ASPARAGUS AND ZUCCHINI TARTER**
  Served with wild rice and sun-dried tomato coulees

**Desserts**

- **WARM CHOCOLATE SOUFFLÉ CAKE**
  Served with raspberry sorbet

- **APRICOT - MANGO TART with mocha sauce**

- **ICE COUP “BELLINI” with peach and vanilla ice cream**

- **CHEESE TROLLEY with a selection of International cheeses**

- **SLICED FRESH FRUITS**

- **SELECTION OF ICE CREAM & SORBETS**

* Complimentary wine, beer and soft drinks with dinner

voyagesantoantiquity.com
AWARD-WINNING ENRICHMENT

Voyages to Antiquity operates the most culturally immersive cruise programme, with internationally renowned guest speakers, a comprehensive selection of expertly-designed shore excursions in every major port of call, an extensive onboard library and a host of other enrichment elements from reading lists prepared by Blackwell’s of Oxford and onboard book clubs to exclusive private visits and local entertainment.

EXPERT GUEST LECTURERS 2-3 guest speakers, pre-eminent in their profession and expert in their field, accompany every departure. 6-9 talks per cruise, 45 minutes each, is the norm, often focusing on history, archaeology, art and mythology, but also on more unusual subjects such as botany and viticulture. Talks are delivered in the Ambassador Lounge with a host of visual aids (music, video and high quality maps) and recorded so passengers can catch up at their leisure if they are not able to attend in person. These guest lectures are specifically designed to complement shore excursions, not simply repeat or pre-empt the insight presented by the excellent local guides.

SHORE EXCURSIONS AND PRIVATE VISITS More than 90% of Voyages to Antiquity’s shore excursions are included in the cruise fare. We use the best available guides, coaches and land agents, and excursions are meticulously planned, well-paced
and guided in English. QuietVox sets are issued to all guests, enabling them to hear the guide's commentary even as they linger to take photographs or make their own explorations. The core shore excursion programme is complemented with exclusive private visits, such as that to the Palazzo Gangi in Palermo where the sumptuous ballroom scenes of Visconti’s *The Leopard* were filmed.

**EVERYDAY ENRICHMENT** Aboard or ashore, every day brings enrichment opportunities. The detailed Daily Journal details lectures and excursions, but also local cultural performances, musical concerts, wine tastings, interactive classes and fun quizzes. *Aegean Odyssey*’s library, surely the biggest in terms of books-to-passenger ratio, houses hundreds of volumes specially selected by Blackwell’s of Oxford to complement the itinerary programme, along with maps, guidebooks, the latest popular fiction, classics and poetry. In this guide, we provide passengers with a recommended reading list, also prepared by Blackwell’s.

...AND REFRESHMENT FOR BODY AS WELL AS MIND

Small ship though she is, *Aegean Odyssey* offers plenty of other amenities to enhance your time aboard and occupy relaxing days at sea. Unwind on the sun deck’s padded wooden loungers and cool off with a splash in the outdoor pool; enjoy a cocktail or aperitif in one of several comfortable bars before dinner, and appreciate the music of the resident pianist or string trio afterwards.

**ATHENA HEALTH SPA** Pampering opportunities abound at the Athena Health Spa, with its full menu of revitalising therapies and treatments including massages and facials. The adjoining fitness centre awaits those seeking to stay active, saunas and steam rooms are available, and nail and hair treatments are provided at the beauty centre.

**SERVICE WITH A SMILE**

Ask any world traveller where they receive the best service and they will likely answer the Far East.

Of all the nationalities in this part of the world, it is the Filipinos who carry the highest reputation for attention to detail. Fluent in English and always ready with a smile, our Filipino crew will win your heart.

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Itinerary changes
The cruise and tour programmes featured in this brochure are planned many months in advance. Occasionally changes have to be made to the itineraries due to circumstances beyond the control of Voyages to Antiquity.

Responsibility
The responsibility of Voyages to Antiquity and the operator of the vessel is strictly limited according to the Terms and Conditions set forth in the Passage Contract that you receive prior to embarkation. You are urged to read the Passage Contract carefully. A sample is available to be mailed on request or can be viewed and printed from the Voyages to Antiquity website at any time. Transportation on board the ship is provided solely by the ship operator and pursuant to the Passage Contract. Voyages to Antiquity reserves the right to accept or decline any person as a guest for any reason. Voyages to Antiquity shall not be responsible for any act, event or omission during the time passengers are not aboard the Voyages to Antiquity vessel. Voyages to Antiquity acts only as an agent for the supplier of off-ship services such as airlines and other off-ship transportation carriers, meals, shore excursions, accommodations, air ambulance and shoreside physicians. Guests agree not to hold Voyages to Antiquity, its owners, agents or representatives liable for any loss, injury, expense or damage which results directly or indirectly from any act or omission, whether negligent or otherwise, of any third party person or firm which is to, or does, provide goods or services in connection with the trip or any available option. Without limiting the foregoing, Voyages to Antiquity shall have no liability to passengers for the quality of services at, and the condition, cleanliness or safety of a hotel, housing facility, or conveyance, or for any transportation delay, including but not limited to liability for inconvenience, shortened holiday time, additional expenses, or any other kind of damage. Voyages to Antiquity expressly disclaims all responsibility of any nature whatsoever for any loss, damage or injury to property or person resulting from air, rail, motorcoach or any other form of transportation other than that actually provided by the Voyages to Antiquity vessel.

Services provided by independent contractors
All shoreside tours and services described in this brochure or on the website are provided by independent contractors. Voyages to Antiquity acts solely as ticketing agent for all shoreside activities and has no legal obligation or liability of any kind to guests for acts or omissions in connection with or arising out of arrangements with independent contractors, including but not limited to airline carriers, ground/tour operators, and hotels since they are neither agents for nor employees of Voyages to Antiquity.

Guests with special needs
The tour programmes featured in this brochure include extensive sightseeing and to fully participate each guest must be reasonably fit and have no walking difficulties. Whenever possible Voyages to Antiquity will try to accommodate guests with special needs as long as the mobility issues are not an impediment to others on the guided tours. For further details, refer to the Essential Travel Information leaflet or to that section of the Voyages to Antiquity website.

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