



National Trust *for* Historic Preservation

National Trust Tours



Türkiye to Greece Heroes, Saints & Emperors Aboard *Emerald Azzurra*

April 16 – 26, 2025

CRUISE HIGHLIGHTS

DISCOVER the Aegean on this journey through the ages aboard the sleek ***Emerald Azzurra*** from Izmir to Athens

MARVEL at the ancient city of **Ephesus** with its ornate **Library of Celsus**, and enjoy a rare inside look at the restoration of ancient Roman residential villas and their mosaics and frescoes

WALK in the footsteps of Homer's heroes with an expert at UNESCO-listed **Troy**, envisioning battles of the Trojan War

CELEBRATE Orthodox Easter at an **optional dawn service in Kavala** before a guided tour of **Philippi**, where you'll trace the path of St. Paul and witness his legacy in its early Christian ruins

UNCOVER the secrets of the enigmatic **Sanctuary of the Great Gods** with a guide on **Samothraki**, where ancient kings and influential figures were initiated into a mysterious cult

STEP behind the scenes at the UNESCO-listed **Museum of Royal Tombs in Aigai**, the ancient capital of Macedon, featuring the opulent solid-gold tomb of King Philip II, father of Alexander the Great

ASCEND to the cloud-high **Eastern Orthodox monasteries of Meteora**, cinematic sanctuaries perched atop towering rock pillars, and view their sacred relics and frescoes with an expert

UNRAVEL the Greek myths and Byzantine history of **Skyros** as you explore the Greek island's imposing Venetian castle with a local scholar, hearing tales of Achilles and Theseus

IMMERSE yourself in the Byzantine heritage of **Amorgos**, exploring the **11th-century clifftop Monastery of Hozoviotissa** and its miraculous icon of the Virgin Mary that has attracted pilgrims for 1,000 years





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Dear National Trust Traveler,

In April 2025, please join the National Trust on an Aegean odyssey, tracing the legacies of heroes, saints, and emperors aboard the acclaimed new *Emerald Azzurra*. As you navigate Homer's storied "wine-dark sea," expert guides will illuminate this ancient melting pot, marked by the traditions and cultures of the Greeks, Macedonians, Romans, Jews, Byzantines, Venetians, and Ottomans.

Begin in Türkiye, cruising from the legendary Greco-Roman cities of Ephesus and Troy to the mythical, unspoiled Greek islands of Samothraki, Skyros, and Amorgos. Witness the grandiose Library of Celsus and the Temple of Artemis, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.

Step back in time to the introduction of Christianity to Europe. Follow in St. Paul's footsteps as he made his historic missionary journeys through the Aegean in the first century A.D. Sail to Kavala, Greece, where St. Paul first set foot in Europe, and experience an optional dawn Easter service at an Orthodox church. In Thessaloniki, travel to Aigai for an exclusive look at the royal tombs, including the solid-gold casket of King Phillip II, and witness the gravity-defying monasteries at Meteora, perched 1,000 feet atop soaring sandstone pillars.

Gain a well-rounded perspective on the Aegean from world-renowned lecturers, including **Timothy Harrison**, Director of the Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures, a field researcher with 35 years of experience in these regions; Princeton's **Denis Feeney**, an expert on the classics; **The Rev. Dr. Gregory W. McGonigle**, Emory's Dean of Religious Life and University Chaplain; and **Keith Christiansen**, a highly regarded European paintings curator formerly from The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Reserve your place on this program today by calling National Trust Tours at 888-484-8785. We hope you can set sail with us to these less-traveled corners of the Mediterranean in April 2025.

Sincerely,

Meg Annacone-Perez
Director, National Trust Tours

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a private, nonprofit membership organization dedicated to saving historic places and revitalizing America's communities. For more information, visit the Trust's website at www.savingplaces.org or phone (800) 944-6847 or (202) 588-6000.

Activity Level:



Pace Level:



Visit Arrangements Abroad's website for more information about Activity and Pace Levels at www.arrangementsabroad.com/faqs.



Türkiye to Greece

Heroes, Saints & Emperors

Aboard *Emerald Azzurra*

April 16 – 26, 2025



Ephesus, Türkiye

Extend the adventure with an optional **Istanbul prelude, April 14-17, 2025**. More details will be shared with confirmed participants.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16: DEPARTURE

Depart on an overnight flight to Izmir, Türkiye.

THURSDAY, APRIL 17: IZMIR, TÜRKIYE

Upon arrival in Izmir, transfer to the hotel for check-in. Later, gather for a welcome cocktail reception at the hotel. R

FRIDAY, APRIL 18: IZMIR / SMYRNA OR EPHEBUS / EMBARK EMERALD AZZURRA

Before boarding the ship in the late afternoon, choose between excursions to Izmir or Ephesus. In Izmir, explore the **Izmir Archaeological and Ethnography Museum**, with its impressive collection of ancient Greek and Roman artifacts, including statues, pottery, and ornate sarcophagi. Then visit the fourth-century B.C. ruins of the **Smyrna Agora**, one of the world's largest ancient marketplaces, in a city founded by Alexander the Great, according to legend.

Alternatively, join an expert guide in **Ephesus**, whose history spans classical Greece, the Roman Empire, and early Christianity. St. Paul, who spread the Gospel in Ephesus for three years (circa 53-56 A.D.), addressed the city's Christian community in his famous Epistle to the Ephesians.

Stand before Ephesus's awe-inspiring Roman edifices, including the **Library of Celsus**, the **Temple of Hadrian**, and a 25,000-seat amphitheater. Enjoy an exclusive look at **archaeologists restoring "terrace houses,"** the city's luxurious, ancient residential villas, with their colorful mosaics and frescoes.

Climb the hill to the domed **Basilica of St. John**, the final resting place of Jesus's beloved disciple, who spent his last years in Ephesus preaching the Gospel. After lunch, all participants will transfer to Izmir and the awaiting *Emerald Azzurra*. B,L,D

SATURDAY, APRIL 19: MORNING AT SEA / KEPEZ / TROY

From the port of Kepez, transfer to **Troy**, the city immortalized by Homer's epic poem *The Iliad*. Trace the path of Heinrich Schliemann, the famous German archaeologist, who used Homer's narrative as his guide when he excavated Troy in the late 19th century.

With your expert guide, observe how Troy's fortifications vary through its many historical periods, including some that date to the Bronze Age. Take a closer look at Trojan artifacts on a guided tour of the strikingly modern **Museum of Troy**. In the late afternoon, sail north to the Greek port of Kavala. B,L,D

SUNDAY, APRIL 20: KAVALA, GREECE / PHILIPPI

As *Emerald Azzurra* arrives in **Kavala** early on Easter morning, you may choose to celebrate this sacred holiday like a local: Attend a **profoundly moving Easter dawn service at an Orthodox church** in this city where St. Paul first set foot in Europe.

After breakfast, travel to nearby **Philippi**, an archaeological wonderland that spans the Hellenistic, Roman, and Byzantine eras. Walk through **the ancient theater and grand Roman forum**. Amid the remains of **the fourth-century A.D. church** dedicated to St. Paul, hear how he baptized Lydia, a wealthy cloth merchant, in a nearby river—the first recorded Christian convert on the continent. After time for lunch at leisure in Kavala, set sail this evening for Samothraki. B,D



Museum of Troy, Türkiye



MONDAY, APRIL 21: SAMOTHRAKI

An island long shrouded in mystery, **Samothraki** was once home to the Cabeiri cult, whose secret rites and initiation ceremonies drew the powerful and influential from across the ancient world. Your expert guide will lead you through the **Sanctuary of the Great Gods**, sharing tales of figures who once passed through its gates. Notably, Philip II met his future queen, Olympias, here during their initiation.

Near the ancient city of Paleopoli, archaeologists have uncovered what may be one of the world's oldest churches, built to commemorate Paul's visit in 50 A.D. and the arrival of Christianity in Europe. Make your way to the modern monument near the site, which honors this turning point in the spiritual history of the West. Before the ship sails, you may choose to have lunch on board or a meal at leisure ashore. B,L,D

TUESDAY, APRIL 22: THESSALONIKI / VERGINA / VERIA

Arrive in **Thessaloniki**, Greece's second-largest city, with Greek, Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman roots. Transfer to **Vergina** and the ruins of **Aigai**, the ancient capital of Macedon. Join experts behind the scenes at the subterranean, UNESCO-listed **Museum of the Royal Tombs** and its collections of precious gold jewelry, weapons, furniture, and frescoes unearthed from the tombs of the Macedonian royal family. The showstopper is Philip II's splendid golden larnax, which held his remains.

After lunch, you have a choice between two excursions. You may join an expert along the winding streets of **Thessaloniki's Ano Poli (Upper Town)**, with its UNESCO-listed **Byzantine Walls**. Visit the fifth-century A.D. **Church of Saint Demetrius**, one of Greece's largest churches, then join an expert for a guided tour of the **Museum of Byzantine Culture**, whose rare textiles, glasswork, and funerary paintings offer a glimpse into the lives of the empire's elite.

The more intrepid may opt to travel to **Veria**, an ancient city where St. Paul once preached. Enjoy a hike up to the 14th-century **Byzantine Monastery of Timios Prodromos**. Afterwards, all travelers will return to *Emerald Azzurra* in the port of Thessaloniki. B,L,D

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23: VOLOS / MAKRINITSA OR KALABAKA / METEORA

As *Emerald Azzurra* glides across the Pagasetic Gulf and arrives in the port city of **Volos**, trace the mythical voyage of Jason and his Argonauts on their quest for the Golden Fleece. Volos was originally the ancient city of Pagasae, where Jason and the Argonauts set sail.

Visit the **Volos Archaeological Museum**, where ancient stories come to life through intricately painted *stelae* dating from the third century B.C. Then choose between two expert-led excursions. You may ascend to the heavenly heights of **Makrinitza** atop Mount Pelion, the mythical homeland of the half-man, half-horse Centaurs. At the top, stroll along honeysuckle-scented cobblestone paths past grand mansions and enjoy lunch at leisure.

Alternatively, prepare for a journey to a gravity-defying realm of spiritual wonder at **Meteora**, an important Byzantine center. Here, colossal stone pillars rise from the earth like the fingers of a giant, each crowned by a monastery that appears to float in the sky. Marvel at the courage of the monks who built these cloud-high Eastern Orthodox monasteries over 500 years, starting in the 14th century.

After the steep ascent, arrive first at the **Great Meteoron Monastery**, whose museum houses treasures beyond compare—ancient manuscripts, soul-stirring icons, and vestments threaded with silver and pearls. As you explore the six remaining cliff-top monasteries, peruse their collections of religious artifacts, frescoes, icons, and libraries. Return to Volos for a late afternoon sail. B,L,D

THURSDAY, APRIL 24: SKYROS / AFTERNOON AT SEA

Welcome to **Skyros**, the mythical birthplace of Achilles's son Neoptolemus, who played a key role in the fall of Troy. Discover its seaside villages and distinctly Cycladic cube-shaped houses, then stop for a guided look at the **Archaeological Museum of Skyros**. Visit the **Faltaitis Museum**, a lovingly preserved historic Skyrian house filled





Icon, Monastery of Hozoviotissa, Amorgos, Greece

with rare ceramics and other local folkloric artifacts. Stroll to the **Byzantine Monastery of St. George**, a pilgrimage site for more than a thousand years. As you enter the 17th-century chapel, the glow of candlelight will reveal vividly colorful 18th-century frescoes.

Perched atop a cliff overlooking the main town, the island's **ancient citadel** will truly capture your imagination. It was here that King Lycomedes held court, where Theseus drew his last breath, and where Achilles donned women's clothing to avoid the call to war. Before you bid farewell to Skyros in the mid-afternoon, enjoy lunch on the ship or at leisure in a local taverna ashore. B,L,D

FRIDAY, APRIL 25: AMORGOS

Step ashore on **Amorgos**, a rugged island steeped in myth and history. Inhabited since prehistoric times, Amorgos flourished during the Cycladic, Hellenistic, and Roman periods before becoming an important monastic center during the Byzantine era. Choose to return to the ship or opt to take lunch ashore.

This afternoon, take a look at a magnificent treasure the Byzantines left behind. Accompany an expert guide up to the 11th-century **Monastery of Hozoviotissa**, a stark white structure atop precipitous cliffs facing out to sea. For more than a thousand years, pilgrims have traveled here to venerate its miraculous icon of the Virgin Mary. Return to *Emerald Azzurra*, where you'll attend the captain's farewell reception and dinner this evening as the ship sails to Piraeus. B,L,R,D

SATURDAY, APRIL 26: PIRAEUS / DISEMBARK / ATHENS / RETURN

Disembark in Piraeus this morning and transfer to the Athens airport for your flights home. B

DISCLAIMER: *This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of National Trust Tours and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.*

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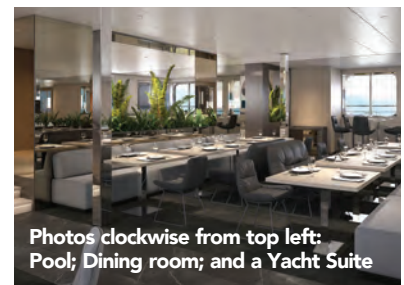
EMERALD AZZURRA



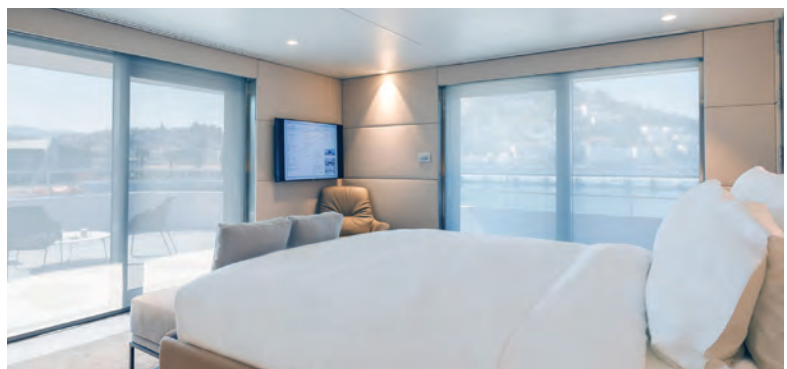
Emerald Azzurra

Discover why the editors of *Cruise Critic* picked *Emerald Azzurra* as their "Best New Luxury Ship" in 2022. Reaching an impressive 360 feet in length with only 50 cabins, this spectacular cruising vessel will exceed your yacht cruising expectations. Relax in your spacious, modern surroundings and enjoy luxurious amenities. Discover a secluded spot to read a book, enjoy unimpeded views of the unspoiled landscapes, or take a relaxing dip in the infinity-style pool.

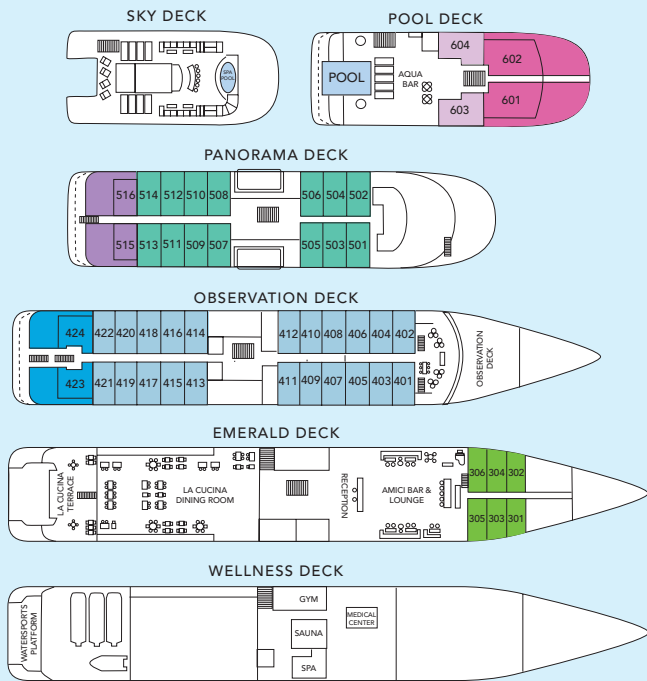
Expect fresh, locally sourced meals thoughtfully crafted by expert chefs and appreciate the ocean breeze from the large *al fresco* terrace. Have a nightcap in the plush, relaxed atmosphere of the Horizon Bar & Lounge. Unwind completely in the onboard Wellness Center, where a selection of indulgent spa treatments includes massages, facials, and even a hairdresser. Complimentary Wi-Fi is available and a full selection of bikes is on board for your use.



Photos clockwise from top left: Pool; Dining room; and a Yacht Suite



EMERALD AZZURRA



OPTIONAL ISTANBUL PRELUDE

April 14–17, 2025

Go behind the scenes of Istanbul’s Byzantine and Ottoman treasures with expert guides. Step inside the opulent Topkapi Palace, the former home of Ottoman sultans. Trace the footsteps of ancient charioteers at the Hippodrome, the pulsing heart of Constantinople. Admire the Blue Mosque’s intricate tilework; descend into the cavernous Basilica Cistern, a marvel of Byzantine engineering; and more.

Prelude Rate:

\$2,999 per person, double rate

\$3,999 single rate

Prelude Rate Includes: Two nights at the Peninsula Istanbul Hotel, with two breakfasts, one lunch, one dinner, and one reception. Sightseeing as noted.

CRUISE RATES

Cabins	Decks	Double	Single
301 to 306	Emerald Deck	\$8,999	\$13,499
Oceanview Stateroom, 205 sq. ft.			
401 to 422	Observation Deck	\$11,999	\$17,999
Balcony Suite, lower floor, private balcony, 285 sq. ft.			
501 to 514	Panorama Deck	\$12,999	\$19,499
Balcony Suite, higher floor, private balcony, 305 sq. ft.			
603 & 604	Pool Deck	\$14,999	Inquire
Deluxe Balcony Suite, private balcony, 390 sq. ft.			
515 & 516	Panorama Deck	\$17,999	Inquire
Terrace Suite, outside terrace, 650 sq. ft.			
423 & 424	Observation Deck	\$19,999	Inquire
Yacht Suite, outside terrace, 720 sq. ft.			
601 & 602	Pool Deck	\$21,999	Inquire
Owner’s Suite, outside terrace, separate bedroom and lounge area, 1180 sq.ft.			

RATES INCLUDE

- One night hotel accommodations at the Izmir Marriott Hotel
- Eight nights cabin accommodations aboard *Emerald Azzurra*
- Meals as indicated on the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; premium cocktails, thoughtfully selected wine, and beer with onboard lunches and dinners
- Complimentary shipboard Wi-Fi
- Airport/hotel/pier/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Taxes, service, and portage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers; customary shipboard gratuities

NOT INCLUDED IN RATES: International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than what is noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; excess baggage; trip insurance; optional Istanbul prelude; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

INSURANCE National Trust Tours strongly suggests the purchase of travel insurance. For more information on policy options, visit <https://my.travelinsure.com/nationaltrust/plan/> or call 1-800-937-1387.

To secure your place, please call National Trust Tours at **888-484-8785**.

A deposit of \$1,000 per person (of which \$500 is non-refundable for administrative fees) is required.



Istanbul, Türkiye





National Trust for Historic Preservation

National Trust Tours

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Front cover: Monastery, Meteora, Greece. Highlights page: Monastery of Hozoviotissa, Amorgos, Greece. Back cover: Museum of the Royal Tombs of Aigai (Vergina), Greece (top) and Kavala, Greece (bottom).
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