



National Trust for Historic Preservation

National Trust Tours

UNESCO TREASURES OF ANCIENT GREECE

Circumnavigating the Peloponnese by Private Luxury Yacht aboard the 50-Cabin *Emerald Azzurra* September 17–26, 2026 (10 days)

We pleased to be returning to Greece's Peloponnese, this time aboard the 50-Cabin luxury mega-yacht *Emerald Azzurra*, an identical twin to the *Emerald Sakara* Criterion. This program begins with an overnight in historic Athens on Syntagma Square and a rooftop welcome overlooking the Acropolis. Following a morning of optional activities (customized by the lecture team) and a sumptuous Greek lunch at one of Athens' top restaurants, travelers embark the *Emerald Azzurra* in Piraeus for a 7-night private charter. The ship's intimate size and speed allows access to smaller harbors, unhurried excursions ashore, and a circumnavigation of the Peloponnese culminating with a transit of the Corinth Canal back to Athens. And should you wish to explore Athens further, a two-night optional pre-tour extension is available.

As the "cradle of Western civilization," Greece and the Peloponnese Peninsula offer an ideal blend of history, diverse cultural legacies, stunning natural beauty, and a most impressive collection of World Heritage Sites. On this itinerary, five UNESCO treasures of antiquity await with stops at Mycenae, whose impressive ruins once concealed the mask of Agamemnon; the spectacular theater at Epidaurus; the fortified Byzantine settlement of Mystras; ancient Olympia, site of the original Olympic Games, and the Oracle of Delphi, the most important shrine in ancient Greece. Beyond these marvels, Criterion has incorporated time for a special access visit to Nestor's Palace, best preserved Bronze Age palace, a cruise through the Diros Caves, free time in the beautiful seaside towns of Nafplion, Gythio, and Pylos; convenient times for lectures; and ample opportunities to enjoy the ship's amenities.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Witness amazing nighttime views of the Acropolis** during a private rooftop welcome reception featuring Greek specialties.
- **Visit five UNESCO World Heritage sites with expert local guides:** Epidaurus, Mycenae, Mystras, Olympia, and Delphi.
- **Transit of the Corinth Canal**, whose history extends back into classical times, including an unsuccessful attempt to build it in the 1st century AD.
- **Cruise for seven nights aboard the luxurious, state-of-the-art *Emerald Azzurra***, a privately chartered mega-yacht built, appointed, and staffed at the highest levels of comfort and service.
- **Gain special access to the most important Mycenaean archaeological sites in Greece**, including Nestor's Palace dating back before 1200 BCE.
- **Explore beautiful seaside towns of Nafplion, Gythio and Pylos** boasting cobblestone streets, white-washed facades, and colorful harbors dotted with cafes.

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ABOUT EMERALD AZZURRA

In March 2022, Emerald Cruises introduced yacht cruising on their new superyacht, *Emerald Azzurra*. The ship is designed to allow access to ports and harbors only small yachts can reach. Stretching an impressive 360 feet with only 50 cabins, this stunning yacht offers a sleek and modern onboard atmosphere with a hint of Scandinavia. Forty-four of the fifty spacious staterooms and suites offer step-on balconies. All cabins have convertible beds, flat-screen television, stocked mini-bar and bathrooms that include hair-dryers, robes, and luxurious bath products.

The *Azzurra* features a variety of public areas for a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere. Take in the views from multiple lounges as well as outdoor venues. Savor fresh, locally sourced cuisine crafted by expert chefs in either the Reflections Restaurant or al fresco at The Terrace. Indulge in a range of luxurious amenities: unwind with a dip in the infinity pool or outdoor jacuzzi. Enjoy a beverage at the outdoor Sky Bar or in the elegant Horizon Bar & Lounge (which also converts to a lecture room with full A/V capabilities). Or rejuvenate at the onboard Wellness Center with a variety of spa treatments, including massages, facials, and a state-of-the-art infrared sauna. Complimentary Wi-Fi is available for all guests, along with a selection of bikes for exploring onshore.



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ITINERARY MAP



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ITINERARY OUTLINE

DAY	OVERNIGHT	HOTEL	ACTIVITIES
Sept 17 Thu	Depart U.S.		Overnight flight to Athens, Greece.
Sept 18 Fri	Athens, Greece	Athens Capital Hotel <i>Superior Rms</i>	Arrive Athens; transfer to 5-star hotel in upmarket Kolonaki District steps from Syntagma Square; welcome orientation and rooftop reception with views of Acropolis. R
Sept 19 Sat	Athens/ Piraeus	<i>Emerald Azzurra -1</i>	First lecture after breakfast; AM visit to private Goulandris Museum of Cycladic Art or Benaki Museum of Greek Culture ; beautiful views over Greek lunch at Dionysos Zonars ; embark ship in Piraeus; Captain's welcome reception and dinner this evening. BLD
Sept 20 Sun	Nafplion	<i>Emerald Azzurra -2</i>	Full day visit to UNESCO sites of Mycenae , where Schliemann unearthed the reputed mask of Agamemnon and Epidauros with <i>asclepeion</i> and marvelous acoustics of 4 th c. theater; PM walking tour and free time in colorful seaport town of Nafplion beneath the Venetian Palamidi castle. BLD
Sept 21 Mon	Gythion	<i>Emerald Azzurra -3</i>	Morning lecture; AM visits to UNESCO site of Mystras , well preserved medieval walled town, and legendary Sparta; PM cruise in small boats through stalagmites and stalactites in Diros Caves , centuries-old shelter and place of worship. BD
Sept 22 Tue	Kalamata	<i>Emerald Azzurra -4</i>	Morning lecture; AM visit UNESCO site of ancient Messene , classical city-state re-founded in 369 BC, with ongoing excavations and restoration projects and an onsite museum displaying their finds; PM cruising and swimming . BD
Sept 23 Wed	Pylos	<i>Emerald Azzurra -5</i>	Full day in Pylos ; special behind-the-scenes morning visit to Nestor's Palace , best preserved Bronze Age palace on Greek mainland; PM visit to Methoni Castle , among the largest Mediterranean or Pylos Archeological Museum; free time to explore Pylos' picturesque historic center . BLD
Sept 24 Thu	Katakalon/ Olympia	<i>Emerald Azzurra -6</i>	Morning visit to UNESCO site of Olympia , iconic site of the ancient Olympic Games, with temples, stadium, sanctuary, stoa, and museum; partake in a foot race on the Olympic Track; PM cruising the Gulf of Corinth . BLD
Sept 25 Fri	Itea (Delphi)/ Corinth Canal	<i>Emerald Azzurra -7</i>	Morning lecture; AM dock at Itea and climb to UNESCO ruins of Delphi , where the Oracle's pronouncements were sought for centuries; PM cruise through dramatic Corinth Canal ; Captain's farewell reception and dinner on board. BLD
Sept 26 Sat	Athens / Return to U.S.		Disembark for flights home B

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Retail Program Fees:

Category D, Oceanview Stateroom (183–205 sf), per person, sharing	\$10,990
Category B, Balcony Suite (285–306 sf), per person, sharing.....	\$13,990
Category A, Balcony Suite (285–306 sf), per person, sharing	\$14,990
Category S, Deluxe Balcony Suite (382–404 sf), per person, sharing	\$16,990
Category T, Terrace Suite (648–670 sf), per person, sharing	\$19,990
Category Y, Yacht Suite (700–721 sf), per person, sharing	\$21,990
Category SA, Owner's Suite (1,163–1,193 sf), per person, sharing	\$26,990

Category D, Oceanview Stateroom (183–205 sf), single	\$15,990
Category B, Balcony Suite (285–306 sf), single	\$19,990

Fees and services are based on current exchange rates and are subject to change.

Program Length, Capacity:

10 days roundtrip from the U.S.

Minimum capacity: 70; Maximum capacity: 84

Fees Include:

All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary • Full program of briefings, lectures and presentations • Transfers for all participants on group arrival and departure dates • Baggage handling • Gratuities to porters, waitstaff, guides and drivers • **Gratuities to shipboard personnel • Port charges • Entrance fees • Welcome and farewell wine receptions • House wine, beer, and soft drinks with group lunches and dinners and onboard *Emerald Azzurra* • Filtered water on motorcoaches • Criterion Tour Managers**

Fees Do Not Include:

U.S. domestic and international airfare • Passport/visa expenses • Medical expenses, immunizations, and Covid-19 testing if required at the time of travel • Private airport transfers or airport transfers outside of group arrival and departure dates • Travel and trip cancellation insurance • Excursions that deviate from the scheduled tour options • Airline baggage charges • Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included meals; liquor or soft drinks except as noted • Laundry or dry cleaning • Telephone, fax, Internet, and email charges • Room service • Other items of a personal nature